



St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School

Headteacher Mrs B A McLaughlin

Fossedale Avenue, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9LS
Telephone 0117 377 2050 Fax 0117 377 2054

www.stbems.bristol.sch.uk
info@stbems.bristol.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers of St Bernadette Pupils,

I hope that you had a good weekend and safely managed to make the most of the easing of some of the lockdown restrictions.

Last Thursday we received the government guidance on the opening of schools to all pupils in September. As well as the guidance for schools a document has been produced for parents and carers <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

The school guidance covers the following areas:

- Public health advice
- School operations
- Curriculum, behaviour and pastoral support
- Assessment and accountability
- Contingency planning for outbreaks

Since its publication, we have been working to develop our approach. Our focus for the past few months has been on ensuring the safety and welfare of pupils and staff, and this will continue to be at the fore of our planning. The government expects all pupils to be in school every day from the start of the new school year and planning for this within the guidelines is a considerable task. There will be a number of changes we are going to have to make to ensure the school operates as safely as possible and within the government guidance. We will be developing our plans this week and will share more information with you once we are in a position to do so, and before the end of term.

We understand that returning to school may cause anxiety for some members of our school community. Please be assured we are committed to your child's safety and welfare and additional support will be available. We aim to make the return to school a positive experience and are looking forward to welcoming our pupils back.

As well as planning for next term, our focus this week is on individual contact with all of our pupils. Tutors will be getting in touch on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of this week. On these three days, pupils will not be set work by their teachers but are asked to revise, catch up on any work they have fallen behind with or complete some of the Excellence challenge tasks which will appear in Google Classroom on Wednesday morning. There are a variety of tasks to suit a range of interests, so please encourage your child to have a go.

Finally, Bristol City Council has sent us a booklet, "A parent's guide to black lives matter." This timely booklet covers an extremely important topic. As a school we are committed to equality, justice and fairness and we offer it to you for you to consider and discuss with your child, if you wish please click [HERE](#).

Stay safe and have a good week.

Best wishes

Mrs McLaughlin