



19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to let you know that I will be writing to all parents later this week to outline the next steps in the 'returning to school phase' for non-key worker children. I have not sent anything out as the position has become increasingly unclear in recent days and I did not want to promise parents something I could then legally not deliver, which could also then add to greater confusion.

The government are due to announce the critical medical and scientific data on May 28<sup>th</sup> which will be our first national indication if schools may be in a position to open at a date after June 1<sup>st</sup>. This critically includes the 'R rate' and number of diagnosed cases. In our region this remains critically important but at the moment no metrics have been published to what may be an acceptable level to allow schools to open to other year groups.

There is a huge amount of work to do before it is agreed that it is safe to reopen the school to the government designated year groups. I can assure you this is something we are looking at and discussing at length. Today staff are meeting to look at routines, possible classroom layouts and essential cleaning resources we will need.

I have full governors today to review the situation, then Local Authority meetings at 8.30am and 12.00 tomorrow. After this, things may be clearer as to our next steps and a future time-line. Please can I ask you all to be patient whilst we sort this out. My aim is to set a plan in place that is bespoke to our children and our school and which as far as possible keeps them and the staff safe. I also want the education for children returning to school to be as meaningful and as nurture-driven as possible, rather than draconian and isolationary. Splitting classes into groups of a maximum of 15 and then re-organising timetables and class teacher allocations to available staff will need very careful consideration. I will outline what school will look like for parents deciding to send their children back to school at a later date. I want to reiterate that this is not compulsory and parents have the right to keep their child at home until September if they wish.

The risk assessment for opening the school must be approved by HR, all unions linked to the school and the full Governing Body. It must then also be workable for the staff we have available

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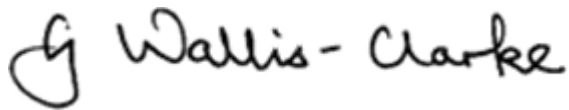


to deliver lessons. The emergency child-care for key workers will also continue to run and this needs to be factored into our plan as this group will not be allowed to mix with children in the other groups.

I can assure you we are doing our best and I will address the other issues a few parents have raised re lesson videos and conferencing when our next step is clearer and we have a better view of what school will look like in the final summer term.

I want to apologise that I cannot do more or give clearer information to you at this time for a number of reasons. Please can I urge parents not to let the sensationalist national press and media headlines this week destroy a successful and positive relationship with the school. It is in everyone's best interests and our sincerest wish to all be back together again when we have a plan in place to reduce the risk to children, parents and staff as far as possible.

Best wishes to you all and please follow our school information pages for news later this week.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Wallis-Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Gary Wallis-Clarke*  
Head teacher