



12th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of children at West Jesmond,

I wanted to get in touch with you all to reassure you that we are looking very carefully at the guidance to schools that was published yesterday evening. The announcement by the Prime Minister on Sunday evening has some significant implications regarding the **possible** phased reopening for children in certain year groups, if the national health position and COVID 19 data continues to improve.

As you may imagine, there are a number of serious issues to consider and we also await further guidance from the government and subsequent discussions with the local authority and trade unions, as to how to move forward. I shall be in touch with specific details for parents once matters have become clearer and we have finalised a plan.

It is already clear to me that this must be a safe workable plan for all based on the needs of our children and the number of pupils we are dealing with which will be over 300. Whatever plan we create for West Jesmond will be phased in gradually to ensure we do not create a serious situation which would lead to the complete closure of the school.

I appreciate many parents have significant concerns at this time over the re-opening of schools and I want to reassure parents, as I have reassured staff, that the safety of your children and for all of our staff team will be mine and the governors prime concern.

I also want to clarify that returning to school, when it is safe to do so, in the final Summer term will be a matter for parental choice and in response to a number of initial concerns from parents already, there will be no penalty if you decide to keep your child at home until September.

Yours faithfully,

G Wallis-Clarke

Gary Wallis-Clarke
Head Teacher

Head Teacher: Gary Wallis-Clarke MA in Education BA (Hons) NPQH
West Jesmond Primary School, Tankerville Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AJ
T: (0191)2810000 E: office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk
W: www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

