

Friday 12th June 2020



Dear Parents & Carers,

On Monday I wrote to you when we were made aware that the most recent reproductive rate (R) median value for the North West was reported as being 1.01. Wirral LA supported schools who wished to pause their plans to bring in additional pupils at this point. I would now like to update you on this.

This week the Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health issued a joint statement saying that they believed Headteachers were right to pause and consider their position, but that they would now support the decision to progress plans for the phased return of other year groups. They said this is because:

- The R rate is only one factor and must be considered alongside other factors such as local death and infection rates which are falling.
- The evidence from the North West Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell (STAC) shows very low transmission child to child and child to adult in schools. There is also evidence that children are less likely to become unwell with coronavirus.

This support from the Directors of Public Health reassuringly gives us confidence in moving forward. We have on Wirral, also received detailed advice from our local Public Health experts who are impressed with the level of detail that is contained in our plans and risk assessments and conclude that our schools are very low risk environments.

We have worked very hard to put protective measures in place to protect both children and staff, so we feel confident that our school environment is as safe as it can be, given the situation that we are in, as this pandemic slowly starts to recede. Nothing we do is without risk in all areas of life, but our detailed plans have ensured that risk is minimised, and we are ready to move forward.

It is absolutely essential that we all continue to keep our school community safe by:

- Hand washing thoroughly and regularly and ensuring your children know how to do this.
- Following social distancing advice.
- Staying at home if you or your child feel unwell.
- Getting a test if you have symptoms of coronavirus and communicating any information to the school.

Having considered Public Health Advice with Governors, I am pleased to confirm therefore that on **Monday 15th June** we will be welcoming back our **Year 2 pupils** as part of our carefully phased return to school. **Our Year 2 pupils will be with us until Friday 26th June.** Today we will send notification, via text, of which bubble your child will be in on Monday.

On Monday 29th June we will be inviting our **Year 1 and Foundation 2 pupils** into school for some face to face contact and teaching. I will write to you over the coming week to let you know of our plans for these pupils. Please refer to the letter sent on Friday 5th June for information on our plans for bringing more pupils into school.

Given the announcement by Gavin Williamson this week, I know many of you will be thinking about September (as are we) and wondering what will be happening then. As you will have seen over the past week, things can change rapidly, even day by day. We must all be patient over the coming weeks as we find out what the impact of the easing of the lockdown will be and what it means for schools. When we are in a position to make further plans we will share these with you.

Finally, we are not able to receive emails at present because of a large technical failure with Wirral Council equipment. Please telephone the school (625-5238) if you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris
Headteacher