



LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents/carers

You will be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday evening of a phased plan to beat the virus and provide a road map for re-opening society. This may lead to an easing of the restrictions that have been put in place to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in relation to schools.

This has been a very stressful time for children and their families and staff and I am sure we are all looking forward to the reopening of school, when it is safe for this to happen. Schools will be following government guidance, as soon as it is released, as well as guidance from the Local Authority. Our top priority, as always, is the safety of pupils, their families and school staff.

Mr Jonathan Lewis, Service Director for Education, stated in an email yesterday evening,

'The Local Authority will support any school if safety has to take priority over any other consideration. Every school's circumstances are unique. Schools will not be able to respond to the government's decisions in the same way. For some schools, the size of classrooms and play areas may limit the number of children who can be accommodated safely under social distancing rules. In others, staffing shortages will limit the speed at which pupils can return. Some of the services that children and parents are used to - such as school meals and breakfast clubs - may not be available immediately in every school. Schools may not be able to teach every subject, if teaching time is limited.'

We are awaiting further advice from the Department for Education and schools will need time to plan. They will work as quickly as they can to make the necessary arrangements. I know that schools will communicate those arrangements to parents as quickly as they can. To support your child's school at this time, please try not to make contact about re-opening arrangements unless your enquiry is an urgent one. Schools will continue to welcome children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils in line with national guidance but capacity will be limited especially with more people returning to work. They will also continue to provide support for home learning until guidance for doing so changes.

Please be assured that, further to the announcement, both your child's school and the Local Authority will communicate with you as quickly as possible.'



You will be aware that reference has been made to the possible return to school from 1st June for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. As stated, there is to be further guidance from the Department for Education. We shall work on the best plans for our children, once we have received these details.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care

S A Barnard-Taylor

Mrs S A Barnard-Taylor
Headteacher

