

June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

## Re:- Review of Phased Opening for More Pupils

Dear Parents,

I trust that this letter finds you and your families well. I hope too, that you managed to get some rest time as a family over half term. I am writing to you today on our position regarding the phased opening of our school to more year groups.

Since lockdown, our school has remained open to the children of critical workers and other vulnerable groups. Our Board of Trustees and Chairs of Local Governance Committees have considered the Prime Minister's announcement on the 28th May, alongside the Independent SAGE report and have taken the decision to delay the opening of our school, to more pupils, in line with the scientific advice.

The Independent SAGE report (28.5.2020) states that '*delaying a school opening by two weeks (to 15th June) approximately halves the risk that a child will be infected*'. The exposure rate reduces from 4.21% to 2.09%.

The report also states "*We believe that decisions on school opening should be guided by evidence that there are low levels of COVID-19 infections in the local community in which the school is situated and the ability to rapidly respond to new infections through a well-functioning, coordinated, local test, track and isolate strategy. We have seen no compelling evidence that these conditions have so far been met across the country. Until they are, it is not safe to open schools everywhere on June 1st.*"

The wellbeing and safety of our staff, pupils and families is the most important consideration in any decision. We believe that we can open more safely to a wider group of pupils by delaying the phased opening for children in Reception and Year 1 until **Monday 15th June**.

From **Wednesday 3rd of June**, we will continue to open to the children of critical workers, children with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) and vulnerable pupils. There will be an increase in the number of children eligible for this group and this enables us to time to adapt and review any measures before we welcome more year groups. Pupils in this group, will also be expected to **attend full time** (8.40am – 3pm each school day) as stated in my previous letter.

We will continue to review the evidence and risk assessments and if we are able to open to more pupils before Monday 15th June, we will do so.

We will be writing to you on Friday 5th of June to either confirm these plans or advise you of any changes.



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We understand that this may have an impact on your own plans to return to work and we hope that you understand that this decision has not been taken lightly. We cannot take any unnecessary risks where the safety of pupils, staff and their families are concerned. We thank you for your understanding and support with this and we look forward to welcoming more of our children back on Monday 15th June.

I will be in touch again very soon. Take care of yourselves.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'D.A. Ryan'.

Dawn Ryan  
*Head of Academy*