

29th May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you for several reasons. The first is that your child's school has had to pause its plans to welcome more children back to school from 1st June. We know and are very concerned that this news may well be problematic and frustrating for you, especially coming through to you on a Friday afternoon.

As you know, your child's school or a neighbouring one has been open during the lockdown period, for vulnerable children and those of key workers. During the last two weeks your school's headteacher and senior leaders have been preparing a lengthy and detailed risk assessment in order to make sure your child and their staff will be as safe as possible. With their governing bodies they have then been preparing an effective plan for welcoming more children back to school. They have shown amazing passion and professionalism in working on this. It's also worth saying that they are looking forward to seeing their pupils again – they have been missed!

The reasons for the delay are questions around safety. Some unions have raised significant concerns about this. It's important that these questions are considered. While we very much want as many children in school as possible, it's so important to do this the right way. Your child is precious to us as well as to you, and we value our wonderful staff.

Until yesterday we thought we knew what needed to be done. The sudden pause is beyond your school's control and we are working hard together to find solutions. Until this is done, your school can only continue its provision for vulnerable children and those of key workers as before. Your headteacher will stay in touch with you about how and when extended provision can be provided, with a commitment to doing this as soon as possible and as safely as possible.

I would like to close by thanking you so much for your patience and for supporting your school. While this may sound odd, thank you also for loving and looking after your child! I want to pay tribute to your headteacher, staff and governors for the inspiring way they have managed this challenging time. Like you I'm sure, I think they are amazing.

Yours sincerely,



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