

Merton Junior School

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*'Be wise, together we
succeed'*

Tuesday 12th May 2020

Re: possible reopening of school to more pupils in June

Dear Parents/Guardians,

By now, I am sure you will have watched or listened to the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday night, or will have caught up with the highlights via the press over the last couple of days. Since the announcement, we have now been able to access the full guidance surrounding the decisions that have been made, which depend on varying scientific factors, so may be subject to change.

In terms of the potential for schools reopening, the Prime Minister said 'In step two – at the earliest by June 1 – after half term – we believe we may be in a position... to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with reception, Year 1 and Year 6'. It is important to note that the statements makes it clear that this is not a set date, and that this may happen at the earliest by June 1st.

At Merton Junior School, and indeed across the country, at present nothing has changed.

At present, and until further notice, we still remain closed and only open to children of key workers as in the original descriptors set out in March, along with vulnerable children and those with EHCPs. We are not in a position at present to safely begin welcoming more children back into school. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we're not in a position right now to extend places to other children.

I am sure that this situation still has the potential to cause parents and children some concern, and I'm sure you have many questions which you are keen to have answered about what this may mean for you and your family. Please bear with us whilst we understand the guidance ourselves and the implications on us and our school community. It is vital to us to put a clear action plan, risk assessment and strict social distancing measures in place to keep our children, staff and families safe. Please be assured that we will not open to more children unless we are 100% prepared.

In order for us to be fully prepared to take Year 6 pupils from the 1st June, if the Government deem it to be safe, we need to know exactly how many pupils we should expect. If your child is in Year 6, please email us by Friday 15th May (admin.office@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk) letting us know whether, or not, you will be sending your child into school on Monday 1st June.

I would like to make it clear that we're not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school. You know your children and personal situation best. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision. Under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the Government have

relaxed the law so that parents will not be penalized if their child does not attend school. No Fixed Term Penalty Notices will be issued and no family will be penalized for any child's poor or non-attendance at school in June or July 2020.

Please try not to worry; we are, as always, here for all of you. We will continue to plan online learning, to keep in contact with our families, and to provide emergency childcare here at school. We will continue to plan online learning via Purple Mash, to prepare home learning packs for your child which will be available each Monday, during term time, on the school website or paper copies for collection and will continue to use our school Facebook page to share ideas of activities.

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We understand that this is incredibly challenging and we are here for you. Hang in there - continue to do what you can, stay positive and keep in touch with us.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Reading', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Mrs K Reading
Headteacher