



Morecambe Bay Community Primary School
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28th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week, I wrote a letter to you all, explaining the arrangements that we had put in place to extend our current Key Worker/ Vulnerable children provision: in it I told you that our first priority was the safety of all members of our school community. You may be aware that yesterday afternoon, Lancashire County Council's Public Health lead, Dr Sathki Karunanithi, issued a statement advising schools it was not yet safe to increase numbers attending.

"Lancashire County Council is advising schools in the county not to open to more pupils from 1 June, but instead to continue with the current arrangements. This is because, in our assessment, we do not currently meet all five of the government's tests in Lancashire which would allow this decision to be taken safely.

We will regularly review the situation and provide further advice so that we can advise schools to open to more pupils as soon as we judge it safe to do so."

I completely support the stance being taken by our Public Health leaders and am actually grateful to get a brave and clear guide from those with sight of local data that tells us how best to keep our communities safe.

We are therefore pausing the alterations I outlined last week, until we receive fresh guidance from Lancashire Public Health telling us that it is now safe to proceed.

The amount of "guidance" documents that we have received on how to open has been bewildering. New versions have been issued late at night and during weekends, meaning that my staff team and I have had to work extremely long hours to make sense of what is being asked of us, before translating those expectations into workable plans that will allow us to teach your children safely.

The plans we had agreed were not a full compliance with announcements about school provision and remain a cautious initial step to return to normality, steps that I hope we can begin again soon. As soon as this is possible, I will of course let you know.

So for the time being, we will continue to run our existing provision. In response to the newly constructed risk assessments and protocols we will be further splitting the children who attend into three classes rather than the two that ran before Half Term. The three classrooms will operate in the manner described to you in last week's letter. We are preparing a staff rota that means each class will be taught by a team of staff on a rota basis, cutting down the number of adults who will work with the children in class.

Provision will recommence on Tuesday June 2nd for the existing provision only.

Children attending will receive a free school meal.

Children are free to wear their own clothes.

All children not attending school will continue to be supported by our teachers who will still be providing home learning packs. It is vital for your child that they work on the tasks covered each day. Staff will continue to support you and your children to do this by providing catch up calls and responding to your queries via e-mail. Children who are not participating in home learning will be falling behind their peers, causing them problems that are avoidable. If you are struggling to access home learning, please contact school so that we can offer you some assistance.

I am so sorry if this change of plans has caused you further disruption and difficulties, but hope you understand the confusion is not of our making, we are simply trying to navigate through these constantly changing and conflicting expectations, whilst keeping you informed in as accurate and timely a manner as possible.

I have been a Headteacher for over 20 years and have never been faced with such upheaval, confusion and fear for the safety of my school community. These are not easy times, but we have worked together, staff, governors, parents and children. I am confident that we will emerge from these dark times with a stronger relationship of trust between all of us and I remain proud of Morecambe Bay Primary School community and all we stand for. Our school values of promoting happiness, responsibility, respect, bravery and kindness have never been more relevant.

I am very grateful for the supportive and responsible manner in which you have engaged with us throughout this crisis, if you have any queries or concerns caused by these fresh arrangements then please do not hesitate to contact me via my e-mail address- head@morecambebay.lancs.sch.uk. My team and I will do my very best to help in any way possible.

Yours Sincerely

Siobhan Collingwood