

Dear Parents & Carers,

On Friday I wrote to you when we were made aware that the most recent reproduction (R) median value for the North West was reported as being 1.01. Wirral LA supported schools who wished to pause their plans to bring in additional pupils at this point. I would now like to update you on this.

Yesterday, the Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health issued a joint statement saying that they believed Headteachers were right to pause and consider their position, but that they would now support the decision to progress plans for the phased return of other year groups. They said this is because:

- The R rate is only one factor and must be considered alongside other factors such as local death and infection rates which are falling.
- The evidence from the North West Scientific and technical Advisory Cell (STAC) shows very low transmission child to child and child to adult in schools. There is also evidence that children are less likely to become unwell with coronavirus.

This support from the Directors of Public Health is reassuring and gives us further confidence in moving forward. We have on Wirral, also received detailed advice from our local Public Health experts who are impressed with the level of detail that is contained in our plans and risk assessments and conclude that our schools are very low risk environments.

We have worked very hard to put careful measures in place to protect both children and staff we feel confident that our school environment is as safe as it can be, given the situation that we are in, as this pandemic slowly starts to recede. Nothing we do is without risk in all areas of life, but our detailed plans have ensured that risk is minimised, and we are ready to move forward.

It is absolutely essential that we all continue to play our part in keeping our school and our community safe:

- ✓ Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly and ensure that your children do also.
- ✓ Ensure that you continue to follow guidance on social distancing and are cautious about the numbers of people that you meet up with outdoors.
- ✓ If you are unwell or your child is unwell, stay at home. Anyone with symptoms can now get a test and you should arrange for this as soon as you can.

Having considered the Public Health advice with Governors, I am pleased to confirm therefore that on Monday 15 June we will be welcoming our Y6 pupils and F2 siblings back to school as the next part of our careful phased return to school.

Given the announcement by the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson this week, I know that many of you will be thinking about September and wondering what will be happening then. As you will have seen over the past week, things can change rapidly, even day by day. We must all be patient over the coming weeks as we find out what the impact of the easing of the lockdown will be and what further announcements will be made by the government. As soon as we are in a position to make further plans, we will share these with you.

I cannot thank you enough for your support and endurance during this period. I sincerely hope we will be able to continue to move forward to a return to some sort of normality.

12 June 2020