



Wider Opening Update - 19th June 2020

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. I am writing to you after meeting with our Governing body to review the planning and the associated risk assessments for a wider opening of the school. All plans have been completed alongside the Local Authority and with our School Safeguarding Leads. The Governing Body believe it is of utmost importance to gain a shared and practical understanding of what your child would actually experience on return to school.

Our priority is the safety of pupils and staff. We believe in "Putting the Learner First" and our goal is to provide the best possible school experience for every child. At this time, it is extremely difficult to guarantee everyone's safety, to eradicate risk while providing a high quality experience for our children, whilst the chosen year groups return to school. Our risk assessments are aimed at mitigating the risk of the spread of Coronavirus and as a result of the actions we would be required to take we would severely limit the quality of our school experience.

We know that Coronavirus may be with us for some time and as a result, we have been planning for the longer-term and what the school may look like in September. Unless there are significant changes in the government's guidance to schools on wider opening it is difficult to see how, adhering to the requirements, what we can offer will be worth more than the risks involved. While we continue to follow the government's guidance in prioritising and expanding our emergency provision for key worker children and continuing to support home learning our staffing numbers prevent us from a wider opening of the school.

The reality would see pupils not taught by their class teacher and not having free time with their friends, restricted to the same seat for extended periods, operating in strict 'safety bubbles' (a maximum of 15 pupils.) There would be no access to shared resources, limited movement around school, rigorous social distancing and containment, warning signs, toilet regimes, cleaning and barriers, all of which present a more hostile reality in comparison to the usual friendly, welcoming environment that we all value at our school. We believe it is not what the majority of pupils and parents would wish for. We all want to return to as near to 'normal' as we can as soon as possible and we are keen to re-open fully for all our children, however, we need to be sure about systems and practice and as parents, you need to be safe in the knowledge that your children are not only safe but will have a positive experience.

After last week's latest government advice we now feel it is time to provide some clarity and stability for our families. Prescot Primary School will continue to follow the government's guidance in prioritising our offer of key worker provision but will not be preparing for a wider opening of the school until September 2020 at the earliest. This will allow us to maintain the same level of support for home learning, after school and breakfast club provision for key workers and also allow for some face to face in school meetings for our Y6 children before they leave us in the summer.

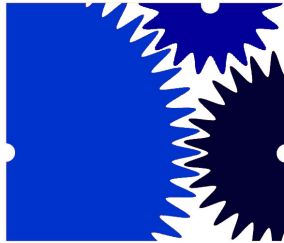


Headteacher - Mr S.George

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Prescot County Primary School
Putting the learner first

In Summary;

Phase 1 - Emergency child care provision (including breakfast and after-school clubs) for key worker children will be prioritised and continue until Wednesday 22nd July. The school will close for the summer break to allow us to make preparations for a possible wider return in September.

Phase 2 - We are working towards a date of Wednesday 1st July for our Year 6 offer. A further letter which will specifically explain the details for Year 6 will be sent in due course.

Phase 3 - A wider opening of the school for all year groups will not be possible until September at the earliest. Home learning will continue for all year groups. All families will be contacted regarding transition arrangements and a possible return in September.

All of the above are conditional on the approval of the school's risk assessments by the local authority.

Free School Meals vouchers will continue through the summer break for eligible children.

These decisions are amongst the hardest we have had to make during our careers. Nothing would give us more pleasure and professional satisfaction to open our school and "return to normal." However a combination of the present situation, government guidance, available staff and a commitment to the health, safety and well being of our whole school community presents us with serious obstacles in doing so. We only hope as the summer continues we are presented with realistic opportunities to plan a much welcomed return in September. We hope to bring you any news before the end of this school year. As always thank you for your continued support during this time.

Warmest Regards

Steve George on behalf of the Governing Body - Prescot Primary School

 **Distinguished School**

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