

LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parent and Carers,

I hope you and your families continue to be safe and well, whilst following key guidance from the Government with regards to: Stay Alert, Control the virus, Save lives.

Mrs. Westhead and her Senior Leadership Team have been working through the most recent government guidance available, to understand more about the plans for a phased return to school for some primary aged children. It was clear from the government speech that the priority is students in primary schools, with the youngest and oldest primary pupils being prioritised to return from what was the 1st June and is now the 8th June.

This is all subject to the scientific and medical evidence and guidance indicating that it is deemed safe and appropriate to begin to return children and adults that work with them, back into schools.

Within the Department for Education guidance, which was published late last Monday evening, the Government is asking primary schools to welcome back children in Reception, Y1 and Y6. By returning pupils gradually schools can initially reduce the number of children in classrooms compared to usual and put protective measures in place to reduce risks. As yet, we have limited information about the way in which this provision will or should be offered and this information has been changing on a daily basis.

The guidance released to schools suggests that it should be from 1st June, if this is safe and possible, but there remains a lot more to be decided at government and school level before this can happen. The guidance provides some of the information that will allow Mrs. Westhead and her Senior Leadership Team to start planning how this might work, so that it would be safe for pupils and staff, but there is still much more information that Mrs. Westhead and the team need before they can share any plans with you as to how this would work. Again, the school will only allow some pupils to return on **June 8th** if **it is safe to do so** and that **Mrs Westhead and the governing board are confident that we have everything in place to do this safely.**

Can I reassure you that as soon as Mrs. Westhead receives further information from the government, she will write to you to share the schools plans. Mrs. Westhead and the team will also take into account the provision that will continue to be in place for pupils not returning to school in June.

In the meantime, our status since March 23rd is that our school is open for those children of critical workers who need to be cared for and for those children deemed 'vulnerable', whilst providing home learning for pupils who remain at home with their families.

On behalf of the Governing Board and all the staff at Lowton West I thank you most sincerely for your continued support and patience at this time of unprecedented challenge, it is much appreciated.

Regards

Brian Cunliffe

Chair of Governors