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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families are keeping well and safe.

We are sure that with the announcement on Sunday evening and new government guidance being released over the course of this this week, many of you will have questions and concerns about the government's proposed re-opening of schools to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children from June 1st, should conditions allow.

While we hope that children are engaging well with and benefiting from the remote learning activities at home, there is now a call for schools to start educating larger numbers of children so they can continue their education and to enable parents to return to work. However, we must be mindful that there have been over 33,000 deaths to Covid 19 in the UK during the past few months. This number will, without a doubt, increase and, as a school, we need to take every precaution to ensure that the risk to children and staff is kept as low as possible. Social distancing and hand washing have been key risk-reducing factors introduced to those children and adults attending school during the partial closure. Even with the small numbers of children who have been attending school (up to 7 pupils most weeks), it has still often been difficult for children to remember to socially distance, particularly for our youngest children - Early Years and Year 1.

What the Government has released, in relation to schools opening more widely, is still in very early stages and we are awaiting further guidance and information coming in on a daily basis from various sources. This requires careful analysis and consideration, which feeds into the necessary planning. As a school, we are working within the multi-academy trust, locally with Warrington Borough Council and seeking support and guidance nationally. We will also be thoroughly risk assessing classrooms and other areas in school, as well as our practices and procedures.

It is important to note that June 1st is stated to be the **earliest** date from which re-opening to these year groups could take place. It is probable that the safest model would not be to open at this earliest opportunity to all three year groups at the same time, or indeed to have all children in from each of those year groups simultaneously. When all is in place and school does open more widely, we will also be continuing to provide access for critical workers' children. We expect the attendance of these to increase as other parents return to their workplaces and they cannot be safely cared for at home; this will have a knock-on effect on the number of places we can provide for other children. We will be asking you to have reasonable expectations of us and our capacity, and to give us your support and understanding.

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As soon as we have definitive workable plans, these will of course be shared with you as a priority.

We will contact you by letter and Class Dojo to let you know the next steps for you and your child - this includes families that are due to join us in the new academic year and for those children in Year 6 who are due to leave the school in July to continue their education at high school.

In the meantime, we will continue to support you to the very best of our ability. Please do not hesitate to contact school by email on burtonwood_primary@omegamat.co.uk or via your child's teacher on Class Dojo, if you need our help.

With kindest regards,

Heather Muttock
Head Teacher

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