



1st June 2020

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a wonderful half-term and enjoyed the lovely sunny weather with no home learning to worry about!

As you are aware, we had initially drawn up plans to begin the phased return of more children to school this week. However, on Wednesday evening all schools received the following advice from Dr Sakthi Karunathini, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing in Lancashire: **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.**

Our Governing Body, in line with other local schools, felt that we could not go against the advice of the council who has access to a wide range of health data. Therefore, as I stated in the letter emailed last Thursday, we will not be reopening school to more pupils until we are advised by Lancashire Public Health that it is safe to do so.

We do recognise that this is disappointing to both our parents and children. However, as I am sure that you have seen in the news, our local area, including Blackpool and Preston, has some of the highest rates of infection in the country, (an R of 1.6) and is not thought to have reached its infection peak yet. Therefore, to go against the advice of the Health team would be foolhardy and risk the safety of our children, families, staff and the wider community. Lancashire are continuing to monitor the situation and we hope that as the infection level improves we will be able to continue the phased return of more children. We have therefore continued to complete very detailed risk assessments and train staff in preparation for this.

To help lower the infection rate, please do bear in mind that despite the Government relaxing some of the lock down rules, it still remains essential that we continue to stay at least 2m away from each other and only ever meet people from other households outside. The sooner we can bring that infection level down the sooner we can re-open school.

In the meantime, this week's home learning has been emailed out by your child's class teacher but do remember it can take a few days to settle back into the routine - for children and adults alike. You may wish to make a gradual return to home learning and make the most of today's sunshine before the weather breaks. The teachers have appreciated getting feedback and emails from you, so please do feel free to email your child's class teacher if there are any queries about the work set and I know they love to see examples of the work that your child is completing. If you are struggling to motivate your child to complete their work do let your class teacher know. We will do all we can to support you whether it is setting targets, timetables or reward charts for your child or modifying the work set.

Important though your child's education is, our biggest concern during this continued period of school closure is supporting you and your children's well-being. Therefore, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk, messenger on our school Facebook page (both are being checked regularly) or by ringing school. **We are here to help.**

Please keep in touch, stay safe and thank you for working so hard to support your children in so many ways.

With very best wishes

Rhiannon Jones