



8th June 2020

Dear Parents

I hope you had a lovely weekend despite the windy weather. Hopefully, next weekend should see a return to the lovely sunshine.

As you will be aware, we were hoping that we may be able to open to more children from 15th June. However, today we received an update from the Dr Sakthi Karunathini, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing in Lancashire who, following a review of the situation, has **strongly advised** that all Lancashire schools **should not** yet open to children from R, Y1 and Y6. He states:

'Although the number of new cases has decreased, Lancashire and the North West has a high number of cases compared to many other regions in the country. (It is currently being reported that 1 in 6 of all new infections in the UK are in the North West.)

Similarly, although the weekly death count in Lancashire is showing a downward trend, a consistent decline is not being seen in all areas, and in recent weeks we have seen an increase in deaths. It has also been widely reported that the R value for the North West is above 1.

This advice will be reviewed again next Monday 15th with a view to reopening to more pupils from 22nd June if deemed safe to do so.'

I know that this news will be disappointing and indeed frustrating for so very many of you. Opinions will, I am sure, be divided on whether this is correct advice. However, in line with other local schools, our Governing Body believe that we must follow the guidance of Lancashire who are our employers and legal support. If you have any questions about this advice/decision from Lancashire, please do feel free to get in touch with me: head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk.

In the meantime, we as a school, have completed the preparations for reopening to more pupils including purchasing PPE and cleaning materials, completing detailed risk assessments and cleaning schedules, preparing parental guidance and training staff. Therefore, everything is in place for when the advice from Lancashire changes. Hopefully, we will be able to re-open to more children from week beginning 22nd June and should be able to confirm whether or not this can go ahead next Monday 15th June.

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

In the meantime, this week's home learning has been emailed out by your child's class teacher - please do get in touch if you have any queries or need anything printing out. We will do all we can to support you.

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
Headteacher

Mike Moore
Chair of Governors