26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Leaders and Governors across our Barrow Area of Primary Schools cluster hope that this letter finds you well, healthy and safe. Our cluster of schools has worked together throughout these unprecedented times, regularly meeting and keeping in contact with each other virtually, to ensure we have steered our communities in the best way that we could. Inevitably, some schools within our cluster have taken some different approaches at times and that has been the appropriate thing to do for their school.

Since the return to our own schools from 1st June, individual schools have operated in very similar ways but with some minor differences. The government’s and local authority’s stated priorities within the phased reopening of primary schools are shown below.

1. Critical Workers' children

2. Vulnerable Children including EHCP pupils

3. Critical Workers' children now needing access to our provision

4. Vulnerable Children including EHCP pupils now needing access to our provision

5. Reception

6. Year 1

7. Year 6

Due to the diverse nature of the schools in our cluster, the priority order from number 3. down may vary from school to school.

It is important to note and appreciate that all schools are different and therefore we urge you not to make judgmental comparisons between the offers made by each school. Some of these differences include: - the age range of the school, the early years’ provision, the number of vulnerable children and those whose parents are keyworkers, the number of children on EHCP’s, the complex needs of children, the staff available to be on site, the size of the classrooms, the layout of the building, the outdoor space, the toilets, the ability to offer meals, Edenred voucher use, year groups returning for a full week, half week, set days, full time provision or part time, online or paper-based home learning.

This is not an exhaustive list but gives a flavour of the diversity of our schools. Each school completes a detailed, comprehensive risk assessment and makes an offer of service based on their capacity.

We sincerely hope that you appreciate that all of our schools are doing the very best they can to ensure that they offer what is right for their setting, their children and their community.

We continue to place your children’s health and wellbeing at the forefront of our decisions and we appreciate your support during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Redhead

Acting head teacher