



Bolton-le-Sands C of E Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Daniel Hargreaves

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28 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Last night, just as we were about to send out our confirmation of plans for next week, Lancashire County Council released a statement to all school leaders within the county advising that schools do not reopen to more pupils on the 1 June (please see the statement attached). Therefore, despite our plans, we will now **not** be opening for more pupils next week, except those who fall into the Key Worker and Vulnerable Pupil Provision group. If you feel your role fits the category of 'Key Worker' ascribed by the Government, then please get in touch with Mr Hargreaves directly: head@bolton-le-sands.lancs.sch.uk For further information, please see the Government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We realise that this may be upsetting and frustrating for many of you, but please be assured that the decision is clearly based on the latest, local medical advice and therefore, for the safety of our whole community, we must adhere to it. We will continue to provide home learning support and we will adapt and develop this provision as a result of the longer period of time away from school to help ensure that you are thoroughly supported in your child's learning at home.

We will be introducing some changes to our Key Worker Provision next week, including dividing the group into three 'bubbles' to reflect the increase in numbers. Parents are asked to use the staff car park gates and escort children to the main entrance. A member of staff will be available to greet you between 8:45am and 9:15am. Please do not arrive before this time and do not enter the building if the main door is closed. If you are waiting to enter, please ensure that you remain 2 metres apart from others. You can collect your child between 3pm and 3:30pm from the main entrance. Please alert a member of staff and wait for your child to be brought to you. We ask that children do not bring any bags or items from home; all they need is: suitable clothing for indoor and sporting activities, appropriate footwear, a coat and a drinks bottle. If your child is having a packed lunch, please ensure that this is in a wipeable, non-fabric, container. We advise that all clothes worn at school are changed when your child arrives home and washed daily.

When at school, we will do everything we can to encourage children to socially distance and follow good hygiene procedures. Despite our best efforts, it is not possible for us to enforce this at all times; therefore, we ask that you prepare your child before they come to school, talking through social distancing and good hygiene procedures.

Thank you for your continued support and the hard work that you are doing at home. As always, we will keep you updated when we are made aware of other changes. In the meantime, if you have any concerns that you wish to raise, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mr Hargreaves.

Kind regards

Mr Daniel Hargreaves
Headteacher

COVID19 Bulletin – 27th May 2020

Advice to schools on reopening to more pupils

Summary

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. This is because, in our assessment, we do not currently meet all five of the government's tests in Lancashire which would allow this decision to be taken safely.

We will regularly review the situation and provide further advice so that we can advise schools to open to more pupils as soon as we judge it safe to do so.

We are actively encouraging schools to follow this advice.

Government advice for schools and parents

The government has released the following direction under scientific guidance regarding the re-opening of schools on June 1st:

- Nurseries and other early year providers, including childminders, are to begin welcoming back all children.
- Primary schools are to welcome back children in nursery (where they have them), reception, year 1 and year 6.
- Secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges are to begin some face to face support with year 10 and 12 pupils. We do not expect these pupils to return on a full-time basis at this stage.

Local assessment

The government's five tests are outlined below:

- Protect the NHS's ability to cope. We must be confident that we are **able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment** right across the UK.
- See a **sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates** from Covid-19 so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak
- See that **the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels** across the board, although we don't see the results of all tests in a timely manner. In addition, we are starting to see social distancing not being followed everywhere across the county which poses the risk of new cases to rise.
- Be confident that **the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand**, with supply able to meet future demand.
- Be confident that **any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections** that overwhelms the NHS.

Locally, we are currently able to meet the requirements of the first three tests; however, we do not meet the requirements for the final two tests. The test and trace programme is not at a state of readiness to respond to Covid-19 community setting outbreaks in a timely manner, which poses a risk to school environments. Furthermore, we are not confident that adjustments to the current measures of the lockdown policy will not risk a second peak of infections locally.

Consequently, our advice to schools is to not re-open to more pupils on June 1st, but to continue with their current support systems that are in place. The safety and wellbeing of children, their families, and school staff outweigh the benefits of opening schools of 1st June.

The key information supporting this advice is that:

- The current support system in schools for children of key workers and valuable children, which is how we describe our vulnerable children, is sufficient at this time. Additionally, safeguards are in place in Lancashire to support those children who are at risk in the community, and this support will continue.
- There has been no evidence of education outcomes worsening due to the effects of government lockdown policy.
- It is not going to be possible to implement social distancing in early years school settings.
- There is currently no evidence of widespread immunity in community settings.
- There is a significant risk that should outbreaks occur in school settings, the current system will not allow for tests to be conducted in a timely manner and therefore, the virus will continue to spread.

Schools will be kept well informed on a regular basis from the Director for Public Health in Lancashire and Lancashire County Council. We will regularly review the situation and provide further advice so that schools can re-open as soon as it is safe to do so.

In this challenging time, we recommend that everyone continue to follow the government advice of staying alert by:

- Staying at home as much as possible.
- Working from home if you can.
- Limit contact with other people.
- Keep a 2m distance from other people.
- Wash your hands regularly.

Dr Sakthi Karunathini
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
Lancashire County Council