



Willow Lane Community Primary School
Willow Lane
Lancaster
LA1 5PR

Telephone 01524 65880
E-mail head@willow.lancs.sch.uk
Website: www.willow.lancs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mel MacKinnon

29th May 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

RE: Update on school opening further for other children

You will be aware that the Local Authority sent a message to all school leaders within the county regarding the possibility of opening the school for more pupils from next week. Here is part of their statement (the full statement can be found in our 'latest letters' section):

'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 will be continuing with our plan of preparing the school, assessing new procedures and training staff over the week commencing 1st June whilst also continuing to provide care for key worker and vulnerable children. At this stage, we do not know if we will be opening to more children from the 8th June but, if we do, we shall be opening to Year 6 whilst continuing the current care.

If you feel your role fits into the categories of key workers ascribed by the Government (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>) then do get in touch with the office or myself via phone or email. Where it is unclear if your role falls within the keyworker category, we may ask for proof.

I realise the unknowns may be confusing, upsetting and frustrating for many of you. Our decisions will continue to be based on government guidance and the latest local medical advice. For the sake of the whole community, children, staff and families, we will only open further when we feel it is safe to do so.

Some parents have asked for information about Covid-19 and children. The NHS linked website at <https://what0-18.nhs.uk/popular-topics/coronavirus> gives useful medical insights as well as



an article on whether or not schools should be reopened. Whilst schools will encourage children to attend school, the decision will be parents.

Some parents will have understandable concerns about their child's medical needs. The guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version> clarifies who is '*clinically extremely vulnerable*' and children in this category should not currently attend school. If someone in their household is '*clinically extremely vulnerable*' then children should also not attend school at this time. '*Clinically vulnerable*' (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow their GP's advice if their child is in this category. A child who lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), can go back to school.

Some parents have asked specifically about asthma. Asthma UK state that '*if your child has asthma and you are worried about them going back to school, the current government advice is to call your GP.*' Asthma does not present the same in all individuals, for example there may be extra controller medication involved, and your GP will be able to offer the most relevant advice for your child so please do contact them.

Home Learning, through Seesaw, will continue for children not attending school. Thank you for all the brilliant support you are giving to your children.

When your child does return to school, there are some key behaviours which apply to all adults and children at school. These are relevant and can be practised at home too.

- Do not come to school/work if you, or someone in your household, have coronavirus symptoms.
- Go home as soon as symptoms develop and access a test as soon as possible. (Further details on testing will be shared).
- Clean your hands more often than usual - with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Use the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes.

I would like to thank you again for your continuing kind messages of support as well as thank all our staff for their continued professionalism and hard work both in school and online over the last weeks.

Mel MacKinnon

HEADTEACHER

