



# Willow Lane Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mel MacKinnon

13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We know that you will have heard that schools may reopen on the 1<sup>st</sup> June to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children if the government thinks it is safe by then. As I write, the Government and DfE continue to release guidance to help schools and local authorities come to an informed decision and develop a risk-sensible plan for reopening.

We would like to reassure you that staff are working hard to formulate our plan that reflects the nature of our school community, our staffing capacity and the design of our building. Our first and foremost priority is to keep children, staff and members of our community safe and if we are to reopen the school, it would be based on the principle that we have reduced as many of the risks as possible.

Do we want our children and staff back in our school? Of course we do. However, we have to be honest and understand that social distancing is impossible in a primary school and not all children wash their hands for 20 seconds or catch and bin every sneeze they have. We can arrange the classrooms, stagger timings, make use of our outdoor space and organise groups of children to minimise contact. We can make school safer but as soon as we reopen the school there will be additional chances of risks and therefore we are developing our plan. We will share this with you so you know what school reopening will look like in practice.

We're not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation best. There may be health reasons in your household which influence your decision and we suggest discussing these with your doctor. You may also be understandably concerned about the reopening. We will update you with our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance of schools at this time.

In the meantime, the school is still open only for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We'll need to keep going with this for a while yet, so please do continue to do what you can, stay in touch with your child's teacher through Seesaw and follow the Public Health England advice should you or anyone in your household develop symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe,

Mr Mel MacKinnon  
**HEADTEACHER**

