



# Willow Lane Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mel MacKinnon

Dear mums, dads and carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6,

At the moment, the government's intention is to further open primary schools to children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, possibly as early as 1<sup>st</sup> June. It is important to state from the outset that this plan is conditional and depends upon whether the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time. However, schools are being asked to plan on this basis, ahead of confirmation that these tests are met.

We are currently in a risk assessment phase, as directed by the Department for Education. I would like to emphasise that the safety of children, families and staff remains of paramount concern and we are following government and Lancashire guidance in this risk assessment. This process is being carried out by schools both locally and nationally at this time.

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. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance of schools at this time.

Children with conditions which render them clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school. Children who live with someone with conditions which render them clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school.

If school is to reopen, then coming back won't be the Willow Lane experience our children know and love. The stringent government guidelines that we must follow will mean for example that:

- Children will be in small groups 'bubbles' all day with the same adult (who may not be a teacher or teaching assistant they were taught by previously).
- Meals will be eaten in a classroom.
- Children from one bubble will not mix with those from others.
- Playtimes will be staggered for different bubbles so the children don't mix
- Classrooms will have had all non-vital furniture and equipment removed as well as all soft furnishings.
- Only one parent will be permitted to bring/collect children.
- Start and finish times will be staggered for different bubbles to ensure social distancing



These are just a few of the many changes we will have to implement.

In order to support our planning, it is essential at this stage that we are able to determine the level of demand for places. At this stage we would like to ask parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to let us know whether they intend for their child to return to school if the phased return commences. I know that you may feel unable to answer this yet however an early indication will assist in being able to plan to safely expand our provision. Please can you respond to the text with:

- 'YES' – This indicates that you are planning for your child to return to school.
- 'MAYBE' – This indicates that you are uncertain at this time.
- 'NO' – This indicates that that you are not planning for your child to return to school.

Your answers will not be binding but will give us important insights which will help with our planning. Please can you reply to the text you receive by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you for your continued support and should you need to be in touch please do email me at [head@willow.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@willow.lancs.sch.uk)

Thank you and take care,

Mel MacKinnon  
**HEADTEACHER**

