



# RICHARD WAKEFIELD C.E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL  
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12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

We hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well. We wanted to write just to give you an update in light of more government statements this week.

On Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> we were told to close our school as part of lockdown to the majority of our children. We were asked to remain open to certain defined groups and since June 1<sup>st</sup> we were asked to welcome back, under certain clear instructions, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 should their parents and carers wish to send them.

It is now nearly 12 weeks since this began and there is still no clear point in the future for things to return to normal. Our school has been shut for just 3 days – all bank holidays - since the start of lockdown, which is testament to the efforts of all the staff, not just teachers and teaching assistants, but also the office staff, cleaners, lunchtime staff and others who have allowed us to be open.

From June 1<sup>st</sup>, when the other year groups returned, the government guidelines around safety measures and social distancing have meant that to operate, every teacher and every practical room in school is being used to manage the smaller group sizes and safety procedures set out in these. This includes the teachers and staff who normally work in Years 2 – 5.

As the government guidance stands, we have little capacity to take on further children, even from those year groups currently allowed back in school.

The latest government statement, which we heard like yourselves on Tuesday afternoon, states that they have no firm plans to return any further primary year groups to school before September. It is very vague and more details are promised but we, like you, have little idea what the overall plan is.

For the parents and carers of those children not in school currently, this can only lead to further frustration and worry. We share those feelings and were hoping that the guidelines and restrictions would change to potentially enable us to have these year groups at some point – indeed many of the staff here have children of their own in these age groups.

Some of you will have made the decision to keep your child off school until you feel that it is safe for them to return – a decision we respect. However, many of you will be juggling work and home schooling and consider that providing schools are safe, this is the place they should be. All opinions have to be respected. The long term implications of being away from school are far reaching – both socially and educationally. Whilst home learning is a way of helping the situation in most cases, it will not replace usual schooling. As a school, we are acutely aware of the above and even though the clarity of what happens next is not there, we have already begun to plan for this when all the children



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return. However, in the short term we are looking at what we can do rather than what we cannot do over the next 5 weeks for the children in Years 2 to 5. As further guidance and advice comes out it may allow some development of these ideas. Please bear with us and we will do what we can, as soon as we can.

Please also remember that all staff are maintaining home learning for children not with us; for the first part of closure we were able to use online materials that allowed the teachers to monitor the work that was being completed. Once these avenues were exhausted, apart from Bug Club, we have had to use online materials that do not provide us with this facility. However, as we have said before, please send to us any work that your child is pleased with via the curriculum support email address at [curriculumsupport.richardwakefield@deferrerstrust.com](mailto:curriculumsupport.richardwakefield@deferrerstrust.com) and the staff will respond as soon as they are able to.

We apologise that we cannot be more specific at the minute but we will communicate with you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely

*S Webster*

Mr S Webster  
Principal

