

Dear Parents,

On Monday 8th June Steve Reddy, Director of all Liverpool Children's and Young People's Services wrote to schools to inform them that:

In terms of the stated review date of 8th June referenced in our planning guidance, there are a number of considerations to be taken into account. These include the likely increase in vulnerable children attending as a result of DfE updated guidance; the relaxation of key worker requirements (one keyworker parent, rather than two); the wider reopening of some businesses; the availability of track and trace and the R-rate being below 1.

*Doing the right thing in the right way at the right time is critical. **Following recent information about the virus and advice from local Public Health colleagues we are advising against any wider openings to children in Year 6 on 15 June.***

Schools are encouraged to continue to follow the guidance issued by the local authority and in carrying out risk assessments. The date at which schools can open to wider cohorts of children will vary from school to school.

It is dependent on a number of variables including advice from local Public Health colleagues, availability of teaching staff, cleaning staff, classroom capacity, entrances and exits and PPE.

The initial Risk Assessment completed by the school was reported back on in the letter to parents dated 21st May:

A Risk Assessment of the school house, indicates that, due to its unique age, size and layout we could not use either the upstairs Music Room and Phyzz Lab, both of which can only be accessed by the one stair case and neither of which have access to toilets. These rooms will not therefore be considered as part of our phased return plan. There would also be issue with ensuring social distancing in the staffroom were it to be used either as the base for a group or by staff. Consequently, the school house will not be included in the phased return plan and the staff room will become the dedicated isolation room. Given the configuration of our Reception classrooms it would be very difficult to ensure social distancing so these rooms will not be used as group bases.

The Dining Room will be zoned as the staff room.

This means that we will have 12 classrooms to use as bases as part of a phased return.

AND

Based on the evidence we will be establishing 7 "Bubbles". Each Bubble will contain a maximum of 12 children.

We have tried to set up a classroom for 15 children, which is the maximum number contained in the DfE Guidance but the size of our classrooms did not support this.

THIS WILL USE UP 7 OF OUR 12 AVAILABLE CLASSROOMS

PHASED RETURN OF YEAR 6

The school had hoped that the five remaining classrooms would be available for 5 groups of 12 of our returning Year 6.

In the interim the school had received a number of additional requests for places for Vulnerable and Key Worker children.

After receiving the letter on Monday that Y6 should not return on 15th June, school Governors and Leaders were faced with the very difficult decision as to whether to now offer places to the Vulnerable and Key Worker children on the waiting list given that to do so would mean that our Year 6 would not be able to return to school. After full consideration, and following DfE guidance, the decision was made to open up two additional bubbles for the children on the Vulnerable and Key Worker children waiting list. These have now been filled.

Consequently, due to the unanticipated number of requests for Vulnerable and Key Worker places (we have one of the highest in the city), and the social distancing guidance which the school has to follow, the school now finds itself in the position of not being able to welcome back our Year 6

Sadly, we are not the only school in the City in this situation.

If schools are allowed any opportunity to celebrate Year 6 either before the end of term or even in the new school year we will contact parents.

PHASED RETURN OF OTHER YEAR GROUPS

Parents will have seen in the national press that the government's initial promise that all year groups would be back in school for at least a month before the end of term will not be implemented.

Our school does not have the space to accommodate the phased return of any of our other year groups.

Consequently, there will be no phased return of our any other year groups to school.

ADDITIONAL VULNERABLE & KEY WORKER CHILDREN BUBBLES

There are strict guidelines with regards to the organisation and staffing of each bubble.

We currently have 10 staff who are absent as they fall into the Extremely Clinically Vulnerable and Clinically Vulnerable categories.

So whilst we have 3 classrooms that could be opened for additional bubbles; we could not staff them.

All further applications will be placed on a waiting list in in order of receipt.

Should staffing change a Risk Assessment will be completed and a decision made with regards to the viability of opening another bubble.

I am sorry that, in these very difficult times, this letter has probably brought additional stress to many of our families.

None of the decisions taken this week have been taken lightly.

We miss our children.

We had planned for the return of our Year 6.

Take care.

Regards

Mrs. Bostock