



**WESTGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

I wanted to update you again on progress since the prime minister announced just over a week ago that schools should prepare to reopen more widely to target year groups from 1st June at the earliest.

As I outlined on Friday, the planning process has been made more complicated by the way in which government has released additional information over the course of the week: guidance published on Monday evening indicated that Nursery classes were included as well as Reception, Y1 and Y6, and then further guidance was published unexpectedly on Thursday evening.

At the end of the day on Friday, Leeds Health & Safety team were able to share a comprehensive risk assessment for all schools to use, so we are using this onsite, with key staff and governors, to go through the plans I have begun to formulate with staff. The final decision on our plans rest with the governing body and we have a meeting already scheduled for Thursday. I will write to parents immediately following the meeting to outline our offer.

At this point, I can confirm a few general details (some of which are in the DfE guidance) in addition to those I shared with you on Friday, which may answer some of the questions raised in your survey responses:

- We will not be able to open to Nursery children due to the restrictions of our site.
- Key worker care will continue as it has been since the beginning of Lockdown. However before and after school care will become chargeable as of Monday 01/06/20.
- There will be no penalty for non-attendance: parents must make their own decision about whether or not to send their child(ren) to school.
- I hope to be able to provide photographs of what provision will look like, as well as timings, staffing and room allocations, once governors have agreed how we will proceed, to help parents to make their decisions.
- When grouping children, teachers have been asked to take account of friendship groups wherever possible as well as learning and classroom management, in view of the high priority of children's emotional wellbeing.
- Children will be grouped in 'bubbles' and will have no contact with anyone (staff or children) in other bubbles, in their year group or in other year groups.
- Children will not be able to move between bubbles, ie children may not attend both keyworker care and a year group bubble. This is to limit social contact and support track and trace in the event of a coronavirus case.
- Start and end of the day timings will be staggered, as will breaks and lunch. Parents should ensure they are punctual at the start and end of the day to avoid congregating outside school.

- If a case of coronavirus is confirmed, the whole bubble will go into 14 days self-isolation. All families in the bubble will be informed on the same day.
- It is far from certain at the moment that we will open to target year groups on 1st June as conditions may mean wider reopening is delayed.

I appreciate that many families are trying to make plans for the 1st June, and without more information, this task is even harder. We are working very hard to ensure we can give you the best information when it is ready, and to ensure that the safety of everyone in our school community is at the heart of the plans we make. To assist in this, I am sending out a link to keyworker parents today to try to assess the level and frequency of demand for keyworker care after half term. In the meantime, I will continue to update you as soon as I have more information to share. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Carpenter', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Helen Carpenter
Head teacher