



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realise this, and you will find strength
– Marcus Aurelius*

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Possible reopening of school to more pupils in June

We know you've seen in the news that schools may reopen on 1 June to nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils if the government thinks it's safe then.

Understandably, it is a very unsettling time for us all. We want nothing more than to reopen school for our pupils but only when it is safe to do so. Our experience tells us it is impossible for young children to maintain social distancing. The government's own guidance confirms this:

'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff.'

The guidance can be read in full by copying and pasting the following link:

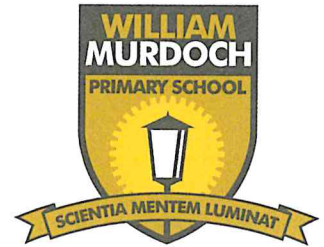
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

We know from information provided by the Office of National Statistics, a government department, that children are as likely as other age groups to get the virus. We also know from our years of experience that schools are a hotbed for viruses. Rest assured that we are going to be doing everything we can to make sure we reduce the risk as much as is possible when we receive these year groups if it's safe for our school to reopen in the coming weeks. We are creating a detailed action plan that we will share with you as soon as possible so you know what the school's reopening will look like in practice. Some of the precautions we will be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance by copying and pasting the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings#shielded-and-clinically-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>



We will be ringing the parents of children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 on Monday and Tuesday of next week to find out whether they intend on sending their child into school so that we can plan accordingly. I want to reassure you that we are not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school. There is a risk in sending your child to school and it will absolutely be **your decision to make as a parent**. Unfortunately, I am not in a position to offer any guarantees. We will keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

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

I would like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We will keep you updated once we know more about when schools will be able to reopen for other year groups.

For all children who remain at home beyond 1 June 2020, we will continue to support you and them with home learning, and meal support for those eligible. If you have any questions, please email enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Singh', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher