

# Otterham C P School

Headteacher : Helen Ward  
Email: [secretary@otterham.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@otterham.cornwall.sch.uk)  
Tel. 01840 261344  
[www.otterhamschool.co.uk](http://www.otterhamschool.co.uk)



Marshgate  
Camelford  
Cornwall  
PL32 9YW

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Dear Parents

I hope you have continued to enjoy this remarkable weather we are being blessed with. Following quite an extraordinary week of politics, the government has made clear its' intention of starting to open schools on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. However the final decision on whether this happens lies with the Board of Trustees of the Multi Academy Trust. Following their meeting this afternoon, with intense scrutiny on the risk assessments completed by each school, it has been decided that our Primary Schools will open on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> for children in Year 6 and the children of key workers and those deemed in need of extra support. Children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will be welcomed into school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. This decision was made in response to the higher level of risk surrounding the younger children due to their inability to adhere to social distancing regulations. It also gives schools a week to test the robustness of their risk assessments and allows an extra week for the government's Test, Track and Trace to become more widespread.

You have all communicated to the school your decision on whether you intend to send your child (thank you), which has allowed us to plan effectively and prepare the school environment. You will have realised from the letter sent out a week ago that the measures we have to put in place are quite stringent and they must be adhered to for the safety of all within our community. Parents who initially decided that they wouldn't be sending their child back at present are free to change their mind at any point, however it won't be possible to just turn up with your child without communicating your intention to us in advance. A week in advance would allow us to continue to plan effectively and prepare the classroom environment. As numbers increase it may be that only certain year groups attend on certain days/weeks. Every extra child will have an impact on the risk assessment.

Regardless of whether your child is returning to school on Monday, we will continue to be in communication and still feel we can safely operate the Pupil Learning Pack and book exchange system, the next date for which will be Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

I was fearful that a return to school would bring the rain but that doesn't seem to be the case; the good weather seems set to stay, for a while at least. We shall be making the most of it but at the same time, seeking the shade!

I know that I speak for both myself and all the staff at school when I say that we look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on Monday.

Kindest regards

Helen Ward