

Fox Wood School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware that there is a meeting scheduled in Warrington for later today to discuss plans for schools moving forwards, following the late announcement on Sunday to delay the planned phased expansion, following concerns across the North West around the regional R rate, and safety for all. We hope to be able to update you further regarding plans from Monday onwards during tomorrow's Welfare Calls (please remember to keep an eye on your phone, and answer first time tomorrow if you possibly can as this really assists staff.)

You are also likely to have seen in the news that plans have been dropped for all primary pupils to be back in school before the end of term. Although the details around this (in terms of priority Year Groups and eligibility, etc.) are different for our school, the Risk Assessment issues, and need to reduce group sizes and maintain 'bubbles' with pupils and staff not mixing, are not.

We have devised a plan based on the number of pupils who we had thought would be returning during June, and it's now become clear from talking to parents who have changed their mind (as is your right) that this number may increase. This will mean that in a week or two it's quite possible we will have to go back to the drawing board and make changes which include only offering part-time placements (unless your child has been recognised as particularly vulnerable, or your family are in need of a full time place because parents are Key Workers.) It also may mean that your child's return date may need to be moved back, or that they may have been placed in a different group to usual. None of these decisions have been taken lightly and the Senior Leadership Team are in constant discussion around this ever-changing picture. We thank you for your understanding where we have to prioritise certain children, and remind you that it is perfectly okay to keep your child at home at this time, and that advice for many children still remains that this is the safest option. I'd also like to offer my thanks to all those of you who have been providing such important home-schooling opportunities through this all, and sharing this with us via EfL and welfare calls – it's been so wonderful to see – and for those of you who intend to continue with this I assure you that your children remain at the forefront of our minds and planning too, and we look forward to continuing to work with you from afar.

Headteacher: Miss Lucinda Duffy NPQH, BA.Ed QTS

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lianne Buchanan BA (Hons), QTS, MA SEN



Whilst I am writing I feel that I should also let you know that, due to concerns around the necessary cleaning regimes, it is likely that all of our playgrounds will not be in use as soon as we have more pupils accessing school, because of the risk of cross-contamination (apologies for the terminology, but this is the way in which we have to view things at the moment.) We completely understand the anxieties and frustrations this may cause, however we are obviously unable to remove the fixed playground equipment and – in order to meet new guidance – we are investigating if the different materials out on the playground can be thoroughly cleaned down, what resources are required for this, and how we can facilitate this whilst also supporting your children (which will always be our first priority.)

We understand that this is confusing for pupils and for families especially where routine and consistency are so important. However, our goal remains to support you all (at home or at school) as much as possible, whilst ensuring that we are following the necessary Risk Assessment measures at this time. Please be mindful of this and supportive of our staff tomorrow when they speak to you. They are merely assisting me in passing on messages which come as a result of a huge amount of thought and planning, always with you all in mind.

Yours Faithfully,

Lucinda Duffy
Headteacher