

# Annie Lennard Primary School

The Oval, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 6LE  
Head Teacher – Mrs N Crozier

0121 429 4284  
Chair of Governors – Mr S Edmonds



Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## Reopening Update

Dear Parents & Carers,

Sorry to be contacting you on a Bank Holiday weekend but felt Tuesday was a little late for this update of information.

As you know the school continues to be in regular contact with the Local Authority and Government about the changing landscape in relation to COVID-19. Due to the need for social distancing and the subsequent impact to school capacity this has meant that in the first instance we have needed to prioritise who we can welcome back.

The priority list following Government and Local Authority directives would be as follows:

1. Children of keyworkers
2. Children who are vulnerable
3. Reception
4. Year 1
5. Year 6

You will also know from my previous letter that we have been working really hard planning and organising the school in order to reopen for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. I was planning on sharing our plans with you on Tuesday as we had got to the point where we were happy and confident in all the risk assessments and plans we had made.

However on the 21st May 2020, the National Government, the Local Authority and Public Health England (PHE) updated their guidance in relation to people in the community who are classified as medically vulnerable.

This medical vulnerability falls into two distinct categories, however the impact of this enormous.

### 1. Those who are clinically extremely medically vulnerable

- have had an organ transplant
- are having chemotherapy or antibody treatment for cancer, including immunotherapy
- are having an intense course of radiotherapy (radical radiotherapy) for lung cancer
- are having targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system (such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors)
- have blood or bone marrow cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma)
- have had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the past 6 months, or are still taking immunosuppressant medicine
- have been told by a doctor they you have a severe lung condition (such as cystic fibrosis, severe asthma or severe COPD)
- have a condition that means they have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID or sickle cell)
- are taking medicine that makes them much more likely to get infections (such as high doses of steroids)
- have a serious heart condition and are pregnant

### 2. Those who **live** with someone who is clinically extremely medically vulnerable

[www.annielennardprimary.co.uk](http://www.annielennardprimary.co.uk)



### 3. Those who are clinically medically vulnerable

People at moderate risk from coronavirus include people who:

- are 70 or older
- are pregnant
- have a lung condition that's not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis)
- have heart disease (such as heart failure)
- have diabetes
- have chronic kidney disease
- have liver disease (such as hepatitis)
- have a condition affecting the brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy)
- have a condition that means they have a high risk of getting infections
- are taking medicine that can affect the immune system (such as low doses of steroids)
- are very obese (a BMI of 40 or above)

4. Those who **live** with someone who is clinically medically vulnerable. Further guidance specifically relating to these categories can be found [here](#).

**PHE and Sandwell Local Authority have stated that children and adults who fall into any of the above categories should stay at home and therefore not attend school at the moment.** This has changed the landscape significantly and the plan whereby we were hoping to open to a wider cohort of young people has been somewhat undone.

The impact of this guidance has also meant that a significant proportion of the school workforce are unable to come into work and support our young people due to the increased risk. Based on recent guidance any child or member of staff who falls into one of the above four categories will not be able to attend site due to the increased risk to health. Until the guidance changes or the school leadership team and governing body can manage and mitigate the risk this will remain the case until further notice.

We now need to work closely with families who are keyworkers and who are vulnerable to identify what we can continue to achieve based on these new constraints. However, at the heart of this is the safety and wellbeing of our young people and staff. So for example if you or anyone in your household has asthma your child will no longer be able to come to school.

When the advice changes we have made excellent preparations so we can get up and running to more of you and in a timely fashion. This has been an upsetting set back to our young people, families and our staff. We really were looking forward to seeing more of you back in school. However, we must continue to do the right thing and follow government advice. I would like to thank you all for completing the parent survey for Reception, Year 1, and Year 6, don't forget it closes today.

In the meantime, the school is still open only for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers, **unless they fall into the aforementioned medically vulnerable categories.** Once I know how many members of staff can work under the new guidance I will be in touch with what children I can open up to as this will now be greatly reduced. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work,

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but we're not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance and have a school setting that is COVID secure and we have an increased capacity.

Again it is with a heavy heart I am sending this letter and really wish it contained more positive news. I will be in touch as soon as I know more.

Take care everybody, keep safe

Best Wishes

Mrs N Crozier

