



19.5.20

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, a sincere thank you for the support you and your families have shown to our school during COVID 19.

We have continued to remain open during the crisis to support those children and families who have needed it. We appreciate the time you have taken to support your child with online learning.

You will be aware the Prime Minister has announced a possible phased extension of the opening of schools from 1st June, depending on the five government tests being completed.

We are working closely with schools within the borough and the Local Authority to ensure we plan for the extension of school opening.

The Local Authority has worked closely with Public Health and has shared the following information to ourselves as school leaders.

As a borough we are supportive of proposals to extend opening of schools as soon as it is safe to do so, however;

- Public health is our first priority in all considerations concerning the further extension of school opening
- We are not yet satisfied that all of the Governments five tests, identified as prerequisites for easing of lockdown measures, have been met.
- We are adopting a cautious approach to the extended opening of schools, based on regular review of the emerging evidence and guidance
- The earliest date we therefore, feel able to prepare for extended opening of schools in Blackburn with Darwen is 8th June.
- This date is subject to satisfactory progress being made against each of the Governments five tests, we will review the proposal date on a weekly basis.

Our **current** plan in line with the Local Authority guidance is to open for;

- Key worker children from **1st June**
- Reception children from **8th June**
- Year 1 children from **15th June** and (if we have enough space with strict social distancing)
- Year 6 from **22nd June**

Planning our classrooms with a 2 m social distancing rule between each child and the teachers, we could have between 6-8 children in a class in the infant /ks1 classrooms and 10-12 in our junior ks2 classrooms.

We currently have 32% of families who have expressed an interest in their children returning at some point before the summer break. With these numbers we will very quickly use up the available classroom space.

So in summary, we will be extending the proposed opening date of our school to **June 8th** at the earliest, in line with advice from the Local Authority.

I will continue to liaise with you weekly regarding the next steps to extending our school opening.

Kind regards,

Mrs Simpson