



Wigan Council Education Department



## MARSH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school we have looked in depth at the implications of the Government announcement to open schools around 1<sup>st</sup> June. As you know my major consideration is the safety of everyone. Our half term runs for two weeks so we would not be expected to return until 8<sup>th</sup> June at the very earliest.

I cannot and will not promise a Covid-free zone. I cannot and will not promise a 2 metre distancing for all children and their teachers. However I will outline the steps that will be taken to minimise risk, to allow you to make up your own minds about whether or not you will permit your child to return to school when they are invited to rejoin.

I do not know how long we will be at risk from this virus but it is expected to be for the foreseeable future. We have to balance this with getting on with life in the safest possible way.

We will continue to cater for children of Key workers throughout the return, regardless of Year group.

When children are invited back to school they will be working on groups of 15 at the absolute maximum. Regular hand-washing and sanitising will take place throughout the day, and every classroom has its own sink areas. There will also be regular cleaning of communal areas such as toilets.

To prevent crowding there will be no whole school assemblies and most children will eat their lunches in classrooms or as a picnic outside. Our classroom doors will be open between 8:40 -9am to prevent a large gathering in a morning. At the end of the day doors will be open between



2:50-3:10, again to prevent a large gathering or long queues. This will also apply to nurseries to prevent the usual queue at the side of the school building. For narrow pathways a one-way system will be in place, which could mean a slightly longer walk in some cases.

In terms of Year groups returning, we will follow government guidelines and start with Nursery and Reception age children. Nursery sessions may have to change so that we can keep within our smaller number ratios. When we feel confident that these children are safely catered for we will invite Year 1 and Year 6 children in. When this is settled and we know we can safely manage these extra children in school we will invite Year 2 and Year 5 children in. Finally we will invite children from Year 3 and Year 4 in. Children will be invited back for 2 days a week, either a Monday and Tuesday or a Thursday and Friday. This would ensure we can keep to our smaller class sizes and give us the opportunity to thoroughly clean between each group to minimise possible contamination.

I have not set definite timescales as I need to be confident that our risk assessments show that any risk for children, staff and you as parents is kept to a minimum. I am also keeping a keen eye on the news reports. If there are any indications that there is a spike in cases then the whole process will be delayed or slowed.

I have taken this step as I firmly believe that every child should have the right to return to school to gain a sense of normality, as long as the conditions are as safe as possible.

In school our focus will not be on 'catching up' with missed learning but to give the children the chance to be children again, away from the strain of being isolated for so long. We will be learning but looking at children's development as a whole. Where possible we will be spending a lot of time outdoors and we are lucky enough to have plenty of space for this. We want this to be a time where we recognise the wide range of talents our children have and to give them the time to feel relaxed with their peers.

I hope I have answered some of the many questions you must have at this anxious time.

Yours faithfully

Mrs G Leigh

