



15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to the parents who have completed the online questionnaire from our Parent App. As you will be aware the education unions have met with scientists today and seen the evidence around infection from Covid 19. I think over the weekend, probably in the Sunday papers and on the different political shows, we will see positions being made by unions and the government.

The government guidelines say that 'by 1 June **at the earliest** primary schools in England **may be able to welcome back children**'. We are being asked 'to plan' and 'as the PM has said, progress will be monitored everyday. If the virus stays on the downward slope, and the R remains below 1, then - and only then - will it become safe to go further, move to the second step and reopen schools.'

We have two sets of tests that I, as Headteacher with the Governors of the school are being asked to consider:

Joint Education Unions	Government
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safety and welfare of pupils and staff as the paramount principle</li> <li>2. No increase in pupil numbers until full rollout of a national test and trace scheme</li> <li>3. A national Covid-19 education taskforce with government, unions and education stakeholders to agree statutory guidance for safe reopening of schools</li> <li>4. Consideration of the specific needs of vulnerable students and families facing economic disadvantage</li> <li>5. Additional resources for enhanced school cleaning, PPE and risk assessments</li> <li>6. Local autonomy to close schools where testing indicates clusters of new covid-19 cases</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The NHS has the capacity to provide critical care right across the UK</li> <li>2. A sustained and consistent fall in daily deaths from coronavirus</li> <li>3. The rate of infection decreased to manageable levels across the board</li> <li>4. Operational challenges including testing and PPE are in hand with supply able to meet future demand</li> <li>5. Confident that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections</li> </ol>

I am hoping that we have clarity soon which will help us all. I cannot at this point give you definite information as to when we will extend the opening of school or to which group/s of children.

Our priority remains the safety of children, staff and families. Once again, when I know more I will share this information with you. If you are a critical workers, guidance updated yesterday - see link below, please let us know if you will be needing childcare and we will plan for an increase in this group.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you have any queries, please ring the school between 9.00am and 10.00am or 2.15pm and 3.15pm Monday to Friday or email us [contact-us@skertonstlukes.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:contact-us@skertonstlukes.lancs.sch.uk) .

Many thanks for your continued support,

Yours sincerely

*C.A. Armistead*

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