



15.05.2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Government has announced that they anticipate, with further progress, that Primary schools can open to children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June**. These year groups have been prioritised as they are key transition year groups. There is also scientific evidence around the less severe nature of the disease in children of this age.

The government is strongly encouraging these children to attend school for the wellbeing and educational benefits school can bring. However, if there are shielding concerns for your child as someone in your household is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable attendance is not advised at this stage. Clinically extremely vulnerable is defined as persons who:

1. ***have had a solid organ transplant – kidney, liver, pancreas, heart, or lung***
2. ***are having treatments for some cancers***
3. ***have severe long-term lung disease including cystic fibrosis and severe asthma***
4. ***have rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that increase their risk of infection***
5. ***are on medication that compromises their immune system and so are much more likely to get infections and become seriously unwell from them***
6. ***are pregnant with significant heart disease***

Also, Children **should not attend** if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to illness in their household.

Children of key workers and vulnerable children who have been accessing school since the partial closure from other year groups ***can continue to do so***.

Schools have been asked to plan ahead on this basis. I am therefore asking parents of children in these year groups (**Reception, Year 1 & Year 6**) for an indication as to whether your child will be attending school from June 1st. I can then complete a risk assessment to plan for opening. This will include:

- Pupils in much smaller groups
- Frequent hand washing and good hygiene practices
- More regular deep cleaning of school
- *Minimised contact with each other (as far as is practical)*
- Staggered lunch and breaktimes for smaller groups of pupils
- More use of outdoor space

The Government is clear that parents will ***not*** be fined for non-attendance at this time. Parents should inform school either by telephone (01902 558608) or email rakegate.primary@wolverhampton.gov.uk before **3.00pm on Friday 15th May** to inform us as to whether or not you plan to send your child to school from the 1st June.

Please note that this next phase of opening will only happen if the Government **deems** the necessary progress has been made. We will contact you nearer to the time with further details regarding accessing the school site and how we will organise the day.

Thank you for your continued support in this extremely difficult time. Sending best wishes to all of our families.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Horton
Headteacher

