

CHALKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Barnhill Road - Wembley - Middlesex - HA9 9YP



'Learning together to aspire and achieve.'

Telephone : 020 8904 4508

Website: <http://www.chalkhillprimaryschool.co.uk>

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Executive Headteacher: Ms. Rose Ashton

Head of School: Ms. Sandra To

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

I last wrote to you on May 20th, regarding the phased opening proposal from June 1st. Confirmation of the reopening to specific groups was based on the Government 5 actions being met. During the half term on May 28th, the Prime Minister confirmed that the 5 conditions had now been met.

However, over the past weekend the independent SAGE group of scientists, dissented from the government's position and said that they feel it is too early for children to return to schools as the rate of coronavirus infection is still too high and the test, track, trace and isolate procedure is not fully operational.

On Monday the Association of Public Health Directors, the people who manage diseases including pandemics at the local level, called for all Phase 2 measures to be delayed for further consideration of ongoing trends in infection rates and the R Level and assurance that the NHS Test and Trace System is able to cope with the scale of the task. They said, 'the risk of a spike in cases...cannot be overstated.'

We are particularly mindful that the black and ethnic minority community in Brent has been particularly badly hit by coronavirus and we do not wish to put children and staff from that community at risk, which is why we must wait until we are assured that it is safe for them to return to school.

We respect these views and have taken them into account in making our decision. Therefore, we can confirm that wider school opening will now commence from Monday June 15th. The parents of Year 6 pupils have already been contacted and will return on that day. The governing board have agreed that Year 1 pupils may be admitted, after they have reviewed the arrangements for Year 6. If so, parents of Year 1 will be contacted before the end of June. In the interests of the health and safety of children and their families, the Governing Board will not be inviting pupils in Nursery and Reception back to school until September 2020.

In practical terms staff have been working hard to set up the school, classrooms, dining hall, school grounds and toilets to meet the guidance for reducing the risk of infection and much still needs to be done. A wider re-opening date of 15th June will ensure that all that work is completed thoroughly and we are convinced that we have done everything we can to keep children and staff safe. This includes health and safety posters and signage that we are waiting to receive from the Local Authority.



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

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We realise that it is difficult to have children at home for such a long period and that many of them are really keen to get back to school to see their teachers and friends and you will be keen to get back to work. However, we hope you will understand that we must put you and your family's health first, despite any inconvenience, as well as that of our staff.

We will continue to provide a home learning offer to all pupils not accessing support on site and will also keep in regular touch with the families of all pupils, whether or not they are attending school.

Further information for parents and carers can be found in the attached government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

I want to assure you that we are working closely with the Local Authority and our Cluster of schools in order to offer a consistent and safe response to the proposed plans.

Keeping children and staff safe in education, remains our number 1 priority.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact admin@chalkhill.brent.sch.uk

Please visit the school website regularly to check for updates.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and patience at this time.

Kind Regards

Ms Ashton
Executive Head

Martin Francis
Chair of Governors

