



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Friends,

The news on school being able to re-open is a little better! On Monday, we were given the go-ahead to open to more pupils from 22nd June, where we feel it is safe to do so. Having carried out a detailed risk-assessment, we are pleased to announce that we will be welcoming Year 6 children back to school on Monday. The bulletin on Monday stated:

COVID19 BULLETIN – 15th June 2020

Message from Edwina Grant OBE, (Executive Director Education and Children's Services)

Our Director of Public Health has revised his guidance about schools reopening to more pupils and we can now encourage you to take the decision to open more widely to pupils from 22 June if, having undertaken your risk assessment, you consider yourself ready to do so.

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi had issued blanket guidance to schools to delay wider opening to more pupils, because his professional view was that two of the government's five coronavirus tests were not being met in the county. However, a reduction in the rate of confirmed coronavirus infections combined with our readiness to support the local implementation of the national NHS Test and Trace Programme means that enough progress has now been made to revise this advice. It is important to stress that the prevalence of coronavirus is still higher in Lancashire than elsewhere in the country so the room for manoeuvre is limited. As has been the case throughout the emergency, all schools are encouraged to admit vulnerable pupils and those children of key workers as long as their risk assessments suggest it is safe to do so. The government guidance states that children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 can now be welcomed back. For secondary schools and colleges, the government is keen for teachers to have some face-to-face contact with specified year groups.

The decision to welcome back more pupils to Lancashire's schools lies with head teachers, in consultation with your board of governors, taking into account your individual circumstances.

Local Support

The logistics of keeping our children safe during this time have been quite a challenge! It has been great to know that we have the support of the parents and friends of Stubbins. Clare Waterfall has been gathering together an army of volunteers, should we require them. Thank you. I asked Clare if she knew of anyone who might be able to provide portable barriers to enable us to divide the playground into two socially-distant halves. Clare contacted Melba Swintex, at Stubbins Vale Mill, and I am delighted to say that we were immediately offered ten barriers absolutely free! Many thanks to Clare and to Melba Swintex for their support.



Looking Ahead

It is unfortunate that, at present, we are unable to open to more than our current Key Worker / Vulnerable children and the Year 6 children. We would clearly love all our children to return, and I am hopeful that in September they will. Over the last few weeks, I have learned that looking too far ahead is a mistake – things seem to change on a daily basis! We have yet to be given any details of the expectations for Summer, let alone any indication of what school might look like in September. It may be that we have half-classes in at a time – it will all depend on the social distancing and group size rules (currently groups are restricted to 15 pupils). Generally, I don't find things out any sooner than the daily update on television!

Monday's Arrangements

I have attached the risk assessment, plan and key messages for Monday 22nd onwards. I know that this doesn't apply to you all, but I thought it would be useful for you to see the work we are doing to ensure that school is as safe as possible for the children. I realise that the situation is increasingly difficult for some of you, but we have to put the safety of the children first.

Please remember, general help is available from Rossendale Connected at:



**Rossendale
Connected**

Providing support for vulnerable residents across the Rossendale community

☎
01706 227016

✉
help@rossendaleconnected.org

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Rossendale Connected

For those in Bury, support can be requested from Bury Community Hubs by phoning: 0161 253 5353 (9am to 5pm).

Stay Well ☺

To receive this Newsletter by email, simply contact head@stubbins.lancs.sch.uk.

Mr. J. DANSON