

# WAKEFIELD METHODIST (VC) J, I & N SCHOOL



Field Lane  
Thornes  
Wakefield  
WF2 7RU  
Tel: 01924 204940  
Headteacher: Mrs D Clark



29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

## Potential wider reopening of school.

As you are aware from the letter sent out via text, website, Seesaw and Dojo, school was planning on a phased wider re-opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June. You will also note that on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May a text was sent out informing you that our plans had been paused. There were many contributing factors, one of which was that our number of key/critical worker children has risen so we need to carefully plan for the reintegration of these children ensuring they understand the new procedures and processes in school to maintain safety as much as possible. We also considered the views of staff, teaching unions and stakeholders and took account of advice from Wakefield Council leader Denise Jeffery and Councillor Margaret Isherwood stating that 1<sup>st</sup> June would be too soon. It has been made clear that the final decision about wider reopening would be left in the hands of school leaders. As you know, I take the safety of our whole school community very seriously and when making decisions about the re-opening of school, safety is of paramount importance. After discussion with the Chair of Governors it was decided that we would temporarily pause plans until we felt that we could make the return to school as safe as we can.

The Chair of Governors and I have agreed that the school has made appropriate preparations that will allow the school to remain open for Critical Workers and Vulnerable children from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, as it has been doing since 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The details of start times and drop off and pick up points have been communicated to the respective families.

During the next 2 weeks we will continue to monitor the science and hope to see a further drop in infection numbers despite the slight lifting of lockdown and the R (reproduction) number remaining below one, as well as an embedded, well-functioning and co-ordinated, local test, track/trace and isolate strategy. **If** this is the case we will consider our phased reopening from 15<sup>th</sup> June.

I would, however, still like you to communicate by the dates set before the holiday, if you wish your child to return to school.

I already have numbers for Nursery and Reception as the deadline was 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Year One** – If you have not already done so and you are a parent of a Year 1 child and you **intend** for them to return to school when it is safer to do so, could you please email me at [headteacher@methodist.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@methodist.wakefield.sch.uk) by **10.00 am on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May**.



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**Year Six** – If you have not already done so and you are a parent of a Year 6 child and you **intend** for them to return to school when it is safer to do so, could you please email me at [headteacher@methodist.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@methodist.wakefield.sch.uk) by **10.00 am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**.

In the meantime, home learning will continue for all year groups so children remain supported whether they are in school or not. Please note, however, that all teachers will be working hard in school so feedback on activities may be less detailed and less often than it is now. We will also continue our weekly 'check in' phone calls to families who have not accessed online learning.

I will continue to inform you of our decision making and I hope you appreciate that the safety of our whole school community is truly at our hearts at all times.

Kindest Regards

Mrs Clark

