



19th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are coping with the continuing restrictions and your families are all well.

Our schools are happy places for those children able to return and we wait impatiently for new rules to enable us to accommodate more children soon. Like you, we do not want to wait until September to have a full school, but our hands are really tied by the DfE guidance requirements. Balancing the needs of the economy with those of our children and our schools has proven to be difficult for the Government. This is reflected in the proliferation of guidance and last minute announcements sent to us.

As I write to you this morning, I'm sorry to say we are no further forward with regard to more children returning to school. If we chose to, we can go shopping, visit public spaces, go to the zoo, congregate in city centres in large numbers and, provided we wear a covering, travel on public transport. However, our children have to remain in lockdown! This is a situation not of our making, but which is incredibly frustrating for all of us.

I do not wish to engage in promises offering solutions which cannot then be delivered. We really hope the rules are relaxed soon so we can see as many children as possible before the summer. A genuine concern is that the Government will see a quick and easy solution in changing the current 2m rule to 1m. There is a seeming logic to this, but the practical reality is that this change alone won't be enough for us and **will only mean a small increase in numbers**. We have run out of rooms and staff, and so need the "bubbles" rules relaxed so staff can move around school more freely rather than being sealed with the same children all day. As soon as the guidance changes removing the requirement for a maximum of 15 in a bubble, our doors will be open! Should you have influential friends or are of a mind to lobby your MP, this is the change which will have most significant impact!

Plans are in place in all schools for a proper goodbye to year 6 and you will hear about these shortly. We are also working on our recovery plan for September to ensure all children catch up and that every child settles in well and makes progress. The Government today promised further funding to schools to help this process.

Some children will have made huge progress being taught one to one at home whilst others, for a wide variety of reasons, have been unable to access any form of schooling. It is important we cater for everyone on their return and are working together to ensure this happens.

Thank you again for all the kindness and support you have shown to our Headteachers and staff. It has made a huge difference and is very much appreciated. We are incredibly blessed to have a workforce that has continued to set home learning for every child and kept in touch with families whilst still teaching.

I really hope my next update will provide good news about schools taking more children. In the meantime the end is in sight; so stay alert, stay positive and love your children even if they are driving you mad some days!

God bless you and your families and thank you again

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ani Magill', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ani Magill
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