



Moorlands Church of England Primary Academy

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

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Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to you to update you with our current thinking around the possibility of reopening Moorlands to more pupils. First of all, a huge thankyou to parents in R,1 and 6 who completed the questionnaire. We had a 97% completion rate, which is excellent and it has given us a clear view on your feelings and concerns. We are in the process of analysing this more fully and will use it to directly feed into our thinking. We will write to you shortly in order to try to answer the most frequently asked questions, once we have had time to think these through more.

It has certainly been a very strange week since the fallout from the announcement last Sunday that, subject to the five tests being satisfied, schools may begin to reopen from 1st June, which has been distinguished by media arguments, conflicting opinion, ever-changing guidance and legitimate concerns expressed by parents and professionals. We want to reopen our happy and vibrant school but only in a way that is safe for all and, just as importantly, still feels like Moorlands as much as possible.

I have personally found the situation to be extremely challenging. I have always believed that it is really important to be straight and honest with you and so, I want to be able to offer you the clearest guidance that I can, based on the safety and welfare, both physical and mental, of children and staff. When I am asked a question by a parent or carer, I want to be able to look them in the eye and give them a clear answer that I believe is in the best interests of their child. The difficulty has been, and still is, that we need to be able to come to a balanced, well thought through judgement and there is an awful lot of advice to wade through, much of it conflicting. In other words, I need to be satisfied that the proposals that we are making are, in my opinion, in the best interests of the children, staff and loved ones at home. We will not be forced into a position to make decisions otherwise.

Therefore it is our position that whilst we will continue to work through the advice, we will also carry on conducting our own in-depth risk assessments and come to conclusions based on this. This is a process that is ongoing and, considering the potential implications of getting it wrong, is not something that can be rushed. The potential date for a return to school has been given as 1st June but we will not commit to this date if we have not completed our planning and given ourselves enough time to put what we have found into practice. It may be that we have to extend this to the following week and it may be that our offer has to be a limited one, so I can't even commit to particular numbers or year groups at this stage. Whatever happens though, we will keep you informed and we will give you as much notice as possible.

I know that for all of you, the most precious things in your life are your children. It is important for everybody that there is some certainty and some clarity. But, trust is important and, whilst all of us want the children to return to school, we will not do this at any cost.

It will ultimately be your decision whether you wish to send your child back to us within the parameters that we will lay out. I strongly feel that my responsibility to you at this point is to show you what this will look like in as clear a way as possible once we have worked this through. I don't want to be in a position where I rush something through, only to then have to backtrack on it.

I assure you that the whole team at Moorlands are working tirelessly on developing the plan to reopen and we should have further information to share with you soon.

To summarise then:

- We want children back at Moorlands
- We will not rush into making decisions that have not been properly thought through, nor will we drag our feet.
- We will not necessarily be ready to open by 1st June
- We will keep you informed and do our very best to answer any questions you have in the best way we can.
- When we ask you to make a decision, we will lay the information out clearly.

Yours faithfully,

K Lee
Head Teacher