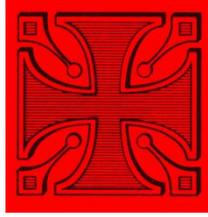


17th June 2020



ST BERTELINE'S C OF E PRIMAY SCHOOL
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents,

You will now be aware that the government has dropped its plans for all children to return to school before September 2020 (at the earliest.) At St. Berteline's we realised that this was not feasible from the very start due to the capacity restrictions caused by the open plan nature of our building to allow for social distancing. As has previously been explained in updates from Julie Barron, children of keyworkers, critical workers and vulnerable groups have been prioritised in line with government guidance.

Plans are in place for the youngest children, that is pre-school and reception, to be offered the chance to return to school on the week beginning 22nd June. Again, this is in line with government guidance to admit the youngest children first because of their lower susceptibility to Covid-19. This plan is, and will continue to be, reviewed daily in light of school capacity and notification of the 'R' rate in the Northwest region.

Unfortunately, as it stands at the moment it is looking increasingly unlikely that we will be able to invite year one children back to school as part of our wider opening of school. This is as a result of the take-up of places by so many key workers in the last two weeks. This is beyond our control and we must follow government guidance on allocation of spaces.

The governors and staff are very aware of the issues surrounding YR6; the end of their primary school life is on the horizon and high school rapidly approaching. These children have spent so much of their young lives with us and are an important part of our St. Bert's family. It is so sad that we have not been able to enjoy all of those special YR6 celebrations. We would very much like to see them before the end of term to wish them well for the future and

remain hopeful that we can arrange sometime to say "goodbye". As yet we are unsure of the format this will take.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families well. We miss you and your children very much and hope you all continue to stay safe and can return to school soon. Please be assured that we will continue to do everything possible to support you and your children. Even though school may not be normal we are still here and you can contact us at any time should you need to discuss any issues or need some support. The teachers e-mail addresses are all on the school website.

Thank you for your continued understanding.

Sending our love and prayers to you all.

Lesley Austin

On behalf of the Governing Body.