

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear parents and carers

Following my letter to you on behalf of the Governing Board on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, I would like to update you further on the school's plans at this time of uncertainty.

As you are aware, the plan from my letter was to reopen on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. We were advised however, by the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing for Lancashire County Council that he did not consider Lancashire was able to meet the Government's 5 conditions, particularly the one relating to rate of infection, because of higher levels in some parts of the County.

As a Church school, we took advice from the Diocese and they were clear in stating we should follow Public Health advice, so we felt we had no option other than to do this. We did however write to the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing expressing our disappointment, and this letter is attached.

We again were hopeful that we would be able to open on the 15<sup>th</sup> June as this was when the Director of PH and W said he would review the situation, but again were advised not to open. Miss Sanderson will have put his bulletins on the website for you all to read.

We are now planning for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June in the hope that he will give the go ahead. We do feel as a school that we are between a rock and a hard place as Central Government are advising primary schools to open to limited year groups, yet Lancashire County Council Public Health are advising us not to open.

We would like to reassure all parents and carers that Miss Sanderson, the Senior Leadership team and Governors have spent a significant amount of time ensuring that we comply with the risk assessment Lancashire County Council required from us prior to any opening, and this is available on our website for you to read. She will also be sending you photos of the classrooms as well as a virtual tour so you can see for yourselves the hard work that has been put in, not only to keep our children safe, but also to try and still provide a welcoming environment.

We are not on our own in wishing to get our school reopened as many of our partner schools in the Lune Valley are also ready to reopen.

We have now had some practice at making this work as well with our many Keyworker children, who have their temperatures taken before entering school, are social distancing, both during creative learning time and at lunch times and play, and we are keeping them safe and well.

In terms of what happens in September, we are arranging our annual strategic planning meeting in early July, the focus of which will be plans for reopening fully, depending on what the Government advice is, and we will be exploring all other options.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your continued support of our school. We do hope that we will be able to open on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June and that you will fully support us in this, so our children's education does not suffer any longer than is necessary.

Please stay safe and keep to the social distancing guidelines to help keep our children and staff well.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Shone, Chair of Governors, Caton St Paul's C of E Primary School