



NEWTON WESTPARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Carol Whiting, B.Ed (Hons)

Dear Parents/Carers and children

Following the announcement from the government earlier this week I am sure you will have lots of questions about the next steps for Newton Westpark's children. At the moment nothing has changed we will continue to provide care for parents who are key workers, whose work is critical to the COVID 19 response, and certain other vulnerable children. **The key message is still that it is safer to be at home.**

Although I want to welcome all the children back as soon as possible, information and data is changing daily. I am extremely worried for the safety of our children, staff and families. Social distancing is impossible to achieve in a school with children despite the many measures we will attempt to put in place.

Plans will take shape over the coming weeks but in principle;

- There will be no more than 9 in a class.
- If your child has to attend they could be grouped with a different adult and classroom than when we closed.
- The groups of 9 and their adult (s) will operate as a 'bubble' and will generally stay in their own indoor and outdoor space and **will not** interact with other groups of children or adults in other bubbles. This is so that if someone became unwell in a bubble group, that group would stay off school for self-isolation, while everyone else could continue to attend.
- Parents/carers will not be allowed to congregate in groups on site at all and we will have staggered start and end times and different entrances and exits in order to make it easier to social distance. Communication will be via phone, email, text and Seesaw only.
- Lunches will take the form of packed lunches provided to each bubble and children may bring their own packed lunch.

We are in the very early stages of planning for the return of some pupils (R, Y1 and Y6) however the first priority has to be the safety of everyone in the school community and we will not reopen until we are 100% prepared. As soon as we have further information we will alert you on Seesaw, email, text and letter.

Having spoken to many of you and the results of the survey I am aware that the majority of you are not intending to send your children back. As a parent I completely understand your decision and there will be no attendance penalties at this time.

If you already know you are going to keep your children at home until the summer holidays please could you inform myself by email or via Seesaw to the class teacher.

headteacher@admin.newtonwestpark.wigan.sch.uk

This way I will have a greater understanding of the likely numbers and can make a more effective plan. Please note this is subject to change and will still remain as a priority of need.

Please stay safe and well.

With best wishes

Carol Whiting

Headteacher