

To all of our Parents and Carers

The last time we reached out to you was at the beginning of the nationwide school closures in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Your support and understanding during this difficult time has and continues to be greatly appreciated.

You will be aware that schools have largely remained open for vulnerable pupils and the children of identified key workers. Oaklands Infant School and our partner schools within the Corvus Learning Trust have been proud to support our key workers and those vulnerable families during this period.

Following recent announcements by the UK Government regarding the gradual re-opening of the nation's schools for certain year groups Oaklands Infant School immediately commenced critical planning in line with the official guidance to prepare for increased student attendance on the 1st June 2020.

Further to the communication by Mrs O'Neill earlier this week we now know that for the time being this will only apply to those students in Foundation Stage as well as the continuing support of children of key workers and vulnerable families.

This was not a decision which was undertaken lightly but after great deliberation and planning around how the school can best support critical year groups.

Whilst the school would love to re-open its doors to more year groups, at this stage it is simply not possible. The priority of the school remains the effective safeguarding of our children. To ensure this we must first and foremost have adequate staffing numbers on site at all times. Until such time that this can be guaranteed the school will not take any unnecessary risks regarding the safety and welfare of its students. In this decision Mrs O'Neill has the full support and confidence of the schools governing body.

We are also aware that many of the schools in the area are being affected in the same way. To them we wish all the very best and stand with them in trying to support the wider community.

The school and its partners within the Corvus Learning Trust continue to monitor the situation closely and adhere to the guidance and instruction of Public Health England and the UK Government. The Government has cited that this guidance is based on the most up to date scientific data available and that the situation remains under constant review.

The media has highlighted to great extent where this has been met with criticism and objection but we remain hopeful that all parties involved will agree on a compromise that ensures the health and safety of our staff and pupils whilst not impacting the learning and development of our students any longer than necessary.

Any changes that affect the schools phased reopening will of course be communicated to you as a matter of urgency.

The school will be in contact with you directly regarding the ongoing support for students not able to return so that their learning journey can continue with the support of its teachers virtually, if not in person for now.

A number of us are also parents or carers to infant aged children and feel the same pressures as many of you at this time. Our ability to balance full time employment with childcare has been challenged time and again over recent weeks. We take comfort though in remembering that we, like you are part of a wider school community that has the ability and capacity to support each other at this time more than any other with understanding, resilience and empathy.

With Regards

The School Governors