



Oaklands Infant School

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Dear Year 1 Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

I wanted to write to you with an update to school possibly re-opening on Monday 1 June. We have spent an enormous amount of time and effort ever since the announcement sorting out logistics and planning. Part of that process was asking you to confirm the attendance of your child and I am very grateful for all your prompt responses which have been really helpful. From the replies from Year 1 and Foundation Stage parents, we have 66% of children who would be returning to school.

Our main issue here at the Infants is the staffing that is needed for this number of children. The Government guidelines state the children should be taught in groups of no more than 15. For us, that means 8 groups, as each class would need to be split into 2.

Due to health vulnerability within my staff, I do not have the capability to provide 8 teachers, in addition to also continuing to provide teaching for our Key Worker and vulnerable children. I have therefore been forced to make the decision to allow only one year group to return to school for the first 2 weeks of June. This year group has to be Foundation Stage, as the Government has asked all Infant Schools to prioritise this year group if staffing didn't allow for both year groups to return.

I realise this news will come as a big disappointment to you all. I can assure you we all feel the same way in school and if I could have made any other decision, I would have done. This is the only way I can ensure staff and pupil safety and follow Government guidance.

Can I re-iterate, this is only for w/b 1 June and w/b 8 June. We will revisit the situation through this time and will keep you fully informed.

The staff who are in school are obviously now extremely busy trying to sort signage, playground 2 metre markings, zoning and classroom set up for w/b 1 June and I would be really grateful if you could not try to contact us this week with any queries. I do completely understand the frustrations you will be feeling, but I do hope you understand this situation is out of my control and I have done my best to enable us to re-open to as many pupils as possible.

Yours sincerely

Hannah O'Neill

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Headteacher