



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Calder Road, Rawtenstall, Lancashire, BB4 8HW  
Headteacher: Mrs Charlesworth  
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School Office: 01706 215893

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## Proposed Extended School Opening for Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well.

Yesterday evening, Lancashire County Council issued a bulletin advising all schools in the county **not** to open to more pupils from 1 June. Therefore, **the planned phased extension of the wider opening of our school to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 has had to be postponed until it is safe to do so guided by the information in our local area.**

For the week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, the school will be closed to enable contractors to maintain our building so that we can remain open in the following weeks.

From the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June, we will continue to be open **only** for children from Key Workers and Vulnerable families who are in school currently, in other words, those groups of children who are already eligible for a place at school.

Although the Government confirmed earlier this week that it would still like to see schools begin to open to more pupils nationally, this has always been dependent on their 5 key 'Tests' relating to the spread of the virus being met.

These five tests are that:

- There is enough capacity in the NHS to provide the critical care and specialist treatment needed.
- The fall in the mortality rate from Covid-19 is sustained and consistent.
- The rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels.
- 'Operational' provision, such as testing capacity and PPE, are able to meet demand.
- Any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections.

The Director of Public Health for Lancashire County Council has determined that, whilst Lancashire is currently able to meet the requirements of the first three of these tests, the





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requirements for the final two tests have not been met in Lancashire. In the bulletin issued to schools last night, he stated:

“The test and trace programme is not at a state of readiness to respond to Covid-19 community setting outbreaks in a timely manner, which poses a risk to school environments. Furthermore, we are not confident that adjustments to the current measures of the lockdown policy will not risk a second peak of infections locally.”

“There is a significant risk that should outbreaks occur in school settings, the current system will not allow for tests to be conducted in a timely manner and therefore, the virus will continue to spread.”

“Consequently, our advice to schools is to not re-open to more pupils on June 1st, but to continue with their current support systems that are in place. The safety and wellbeing of children, their families, and school staff outweigh the benefits of further opening of schools on 1st June.”

Whilst we are sorry that this decision has been taken just days before the planned extension of the opening of our school was due to start, the Director of Public Health's assessment is clear that, in Lancashire, it is not yet safe enough to do this. We have been told that schools will be kept informed by the Director for Public Health in Lancashire and Lancashire County Council, who will regularly review the situation and provide further advice so that schools can re-open as soon as it is safe to do so. As soon as we have been informed when this might be, we will share this with parents and continue with our planned return.

Thank you all once again for your support and patience at this time.

With our very best wishes,

Kind Regards

*Mrs S Charlesworth*

Headteacher

