



OXFORD DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

NORTH LEIGH C E PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER

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Dear Parents and Carers

Proposed school re-opening from 1 June 2020

You will be aware that the Government has asked schools to welcome back more children into school from 1 June at the earliest. I am writing to you to let you know more about our school's response to this.

Of course, we very much look forward to a time when we can welcome as many children as possible back into school; we exist as a school community to educate your children. We do, however, take very seriously our responsibility to keep your children safe and to ensure that our staff can be confident to come to work knowing that we are not putting them or their families at undue risk.

I have been asked by ODST, our Multi Academy Trust, to work with our local Governing Body to carry out a full and detailed risk assessment before making a final decision about arrangements from 1 June onwards. Clearly, we need to ensure that the decisions we make about opening to more pupils are in the best interests of children and members of staff.

The specific conditions in this school need to be carefully considered and Government advice is that every setting should carry out a risk assessment before opening to more pupils. We are considering this with reference to Department for Education Guidance (which you can find [here](#) should you be interested) and ODST support.

We are working on that risk assessment now. Once completed, we will work with ODST to put the right measures in place to minimise the risks to health as far as we think is possible in order to meet the Government directive that schools should open to larger numbers of children. **The first such decision, taken by ODST, is that 1 and 2 June have been designated as additional INSET days (and therefore closed to all but children of Key Workers already in attendance), to enable staff to receive appropriate guidance and training, prior to opening for larger numbers of pupils.** We will also be working to re-arrange classrooms and change the way both children and staff move around

school. Our usual Safeguarding and Health and Safety standards will be maintained with additional requirements to suit this situation.

I am not, therefore, in a position yet to tell you what the arrangements will be after 2 June and whether we will be in a position here at North Leigh to meet the Government's request in full. Whilst I realise this may be frustrating and understand that you want to know, please be reassured that we are all working very hard to put plans into place as quickly as possible; but the safety of the children and adults on the school site must come first. There may also be some ODST-wide decisions to which we will need to adhere.

If, after careful consideration, we conclude that it will not be possible to open the school in exactly the way that Government communication proposes, we will let you know what our plans are. In any case, it is highly likely that we will need to consider changes to timings of the school day, lunch arrangements, and arrangements for picking up and dropping off children.

We expect to be in a position to give you clear and detailed information by the end of next week; rest assured we will take all necessary steps to try to ensure the safety of your child if we invite them into school, and for those children still at home, we will continue to provide home learning (though, as suggested in the Government guidance, it may be more difficult to maintain the same level of remote education provision for pupils in the year groups who are not eligible to attend, or for those pupils in year groups who are eligible to attend but who themselves cannot).

Thank you so much for your continued support; we miss teaching your wonderful children and look forward to having them back with us as soon as it is safe to do so. We are working hard as a team with both ODST and Governors to bring children safely back into school.

Yours faithfully

Deborah Seccull
Headteacher

Sophie Warner
Chair of Governors