

Friday 29th May

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wrote to you on the 22nd May informing you that we intended to open all our North Somerset schools in the week beginning 1st June.

Head teachers and school staff are very much looking forward to welcoming pupils back to school.

Head teachers have been working hard to put in place plans to welcome children back. Risk assessments have been carried out and detailed, thorough plans have been put in to place. All school's risk assessments have been approved and we are confident that when schools reopen every reasonable step has been taken to safeguard the health of children and staff. We shall adapt and develop the risk assessments continually to ensure we protect pupils and staff as best we can.

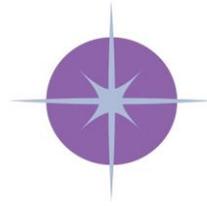
However, there have been significant developments in the Weston Super Mare region that has changed the position over recent days.

We have considered information from The Department of Health and Social Care showing daily COVID-19 rates in North Somerset and discussed the implications of the closure of Weston General Hospital and the outbreak of the virus there. We have also sought advice from Public Health England. The overall position shows that at this moment in time the pandemic is not declining at the same rate in North Somerset as in neighbouring areas, although this may be a consequence of a higher testing rate in this area.

The Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust in consultation with Headteachers have decided that they will defer the opening date for schools until Monday 8 June 2020, at the earliest.

This is based on local factors with the safety of pupils and staff as the prime concern. The goal of opening to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 at the earliest possible date remains.

The provision in each school for the children of key workers and vulnerable groups will continue next week and beyond. The home learning support schools are providing will also continue.



Staff will be in school next week preparing, and we will continue to consult with Head teachers, and Local Governing Boards to consider local readiness for reopening.

We will communicate our decision about the planned reopening from Monday 8 June by the end of the school day on Thursday 4 June. We will try our best to communicate in a timely way so that you are able to prepare for this

I would like to thank Head teachers, teachers, school staff and governors for their thorough and detailed preparation for re-opening.

I realise this will be a disappointment for you and your children. I apologise for the significant inconvenience that the timing of this decision may cause for many of you. The situation is fast moving and the necessity of this decision is a disappointment for us all.

Please be assured that we will continue to monitor the situation very closely, listen to your feedback and respond accordingly.

We will continue to keep you updated through regular communication, as well as through school websites.

For parents and carers of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, the information already sent out and arrangements around start times and entrances remains the same - just delayed until Monday 8th.

My very best wishes to you and your family,

Philip Bowditch