Wibsey Primary School
North Road, Bradford, BD6 1RL
Headteacher: Mr N M Cooper

Tuesday 12th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

<u>Update from Mr Cooper - 12th May</u>

Good morning folks. I write to update you following the release of DfE guidance last night on how schools should manage reopening to limited groups of children. This again raised more questions than answers but I will continue to share the Wibsey position as we stand, I will continue to be frank and honest and also share open where **we do not have the answers**

The plan to open to children in YN, YR, Y1 and Y6 is one that currently looks unworkable. As I have previously said – social distancing of the kind expected is impossible for the youngest of those groups of children with any measure of safety. If I took Nursery or Reception as an example there would, according to the guidance, be little equipment or resources available to the children, they would not have to be socially distant, they would not be able to be near or play with some friends or come in to school together. Parents would not be allowed to enter the school Site at all. This seems fairly unworkable to me.

The Local Authority (Bradford) have grave concerns about the guidance and are in contact with the national Department for Education about these. They will update schools as soon as they are able to.

Pupil and Staff safety concerns are not addressed. The message seems to be that 2 meters distancing is required everywhere but in a school. PPE is needed where other key workers are in proximity to the vulnerable but we are being told won't be needed for protecting our staff or children. The unions have strong views about this with one advising members that the plan is reckless. **Pupil and staff safety has to be paramount.**

If we can make it work, we will. I want children back in school – just not at any cost. Government messages remain mixed. Please do not assume anything at this point.

Stay safe – and thank you for the wonderful messages of support.

Nigel Cooper

Headteacher – Team Wibsey