



**Garfield Primary**  
Today's children, tomorrow's future.

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**IMPORTANT - Update on the proposed phased reopening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 6 – We are not able to open for the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2020**

We hope you are all keeping well, are staying safe and making the best of the current situation.

Last week, you received a letter informing you that the government plan is for schools to open first for Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6 children, starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. In the letter it was explained that Garfield school leaders are working very hard planning for a proposed reopening. Given the need to plan for an entirely different school environment in which every aspect of school life will be changed, and each change itself needs to be risk assessed, we told you that we could not guarantee that it would be possible to restart on the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

We are writing to let you know that, following a recent governing body meeting this week, it was decided that for a number of reasons, **Garfield is not able to open for any of those additional year groups (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) on the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June**. We do remain open for pupils of key workers and have done since the 22<sup>nd</sup> March

There are a number of things we have to have in place before we open to a wider group of pupils. You will appreciate that there are many different safety measures and preparations needed to maximise safety. They are not yet fully in place. We have also ordered additional PPE and other equipment which needs to have arrived to keep everyone as safe as possible. Finally, you will be aware that many of the unions that school staff belong to, have asked for certain things to be in place before reopening. These include that the government have in place effective track and trace systems for coronavirus and that there are robust risk assessments and procedures in place to maximise safety for all.

The government have made it clear that whilst they are proposing a phased reopening of primary schools, they will be giving a further update on this on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

The school is continuing to plan to be able to reopen for those year groups and will be doing as much as in their control to aim for this to happen as soon as possible.

**We will assess what the situation is looking like on the week of the 1<sup>st</sup> June and by the Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, we will be able to assess if we are able to start reopening, the following week (week beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> June)**. We appreciate that as parents, it is really important to communicate with you and give you notice to plan for the future. **We would therefore write to you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June to confirm what is happening.**

I would like to thank you all for your returned parent surveys. In order for us to carefully plan for the reopening, we have to know the numbers of pupils who would be returning in advance (initially in year groups N, R, Yr 1 and Yr 6). We appreciate that many parents expressed that they were currently not sure if they want their child to return in the summer term.

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We will be arranging for members of our office team to telephone parents straight after half term who either did not reply to the survey or were not sure. This is because we need to know in advance the numbers of pupils returning in order to plan for the new school routines and ways of working that maximise safety. We know that this is a difficult decision for some of you and want you to know that your decision will always be respected.

We would like to thank you for all your support and understanding during this difficult time. Please know that because we take the health and safety of all of our pupils, staff and parents very seriously, that we had to take the decision that it was not feasible to open for the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Take care and stay safe,

*Karen Khwaja*

Karen Khwaja  
Headteacher

*Keith Carrano*

Keith Carrano  
Chair of Governors