



Fishwick Primary School

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<https://fishwick.lancs.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Mrs Vicki Conway

28th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you are aware, yesterday it was announced that Lancashire County Council is advising schools in the county not to open to more pupils from 1 June, but instead to continue with the current arrangements of supporting the children of key workers and other identified groups. This is because, in their assessment, we do not currently meet all five of the government's tests in Lancashire, which would allow this decision to be taken safely. The local assessment outlined below was taken by, Dr Sakthi Karunathini, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing for Lancashire County Council.

Local Assessment

The government's five tests are outlined below:

1. Protect the NHS's ability to cope. We must be confident that we are able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment right across the UK.
2. See a sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates from Covid-19 so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak
3. See that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the board, although we don't see the results of all tests in a timely manner. In addition, we are starting to see social distancing not being followed everywhere across the county which poses the risk of new cases to rise.
4. Be confident that the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand, with supply able to meet future demand.
5. Be confident that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections that overwhelms the NHS.

"Locally, we are currently able to meet the requirements of the first three tests; however, we do not meet the requirements for the final two tests. 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.

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 opening schools of 1st June."

Lancashire County Council has said they will regularly review the situation but they are actively encouraging schools to follow this advice. Following consultation with Mrs Duggleby, our Chair of Governors, I can confirm that Fishwick will be following this advice and we **will not** be opening to more children at this time.

I know that there will be mixed feelings at this decision but clearly the health and safety of our whole community is our primary concern. Please be assured that the staff of Fishwick will continue to do our best to support you and your children during this time. Home learning will re-start after the half term break on 3/6/20 but if I can be of any help please feel free to contact me on head@fishwick.lancs.sch.uk.

I will try to keep you updated with any information as I receive it.

Stay Safe

V Conway

Vicki Conway
Headteacher