

27 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: Schools Update

As a Council our priority is to keep local people safe and well while continuing to deliver vital services to support our most vulnerable residents.

The decision to close schools to the majority of their pupils was a difficult one. However, it was necessary to ensure the safety of pupils as well the safety of teachers and those working in our schools.

During the pandemic, schools have remained open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, including during school holidays and on bank holidays; and our teachers have worked hard to support their pupils learning at home and to make sure the most vulnerable families have been able to access the help they need.

The Government has asked primary schools in England to start readmitting more pupils from 1st June in Reception, Year One and Year Six and have published guidelines to schools how they can make this happen while making sure pupils and staff are kept safe.

The final decision as to whether a school can start readmitting children will lie with the School Headteacher and the Governing Body. They will make that decision based on the safety of pupils and staff.

If schools can reopen fully in line with the guidance, they will have our support in doing so.

If schools think they can reopen but only in a phased approach such as staggering start times or alternating days on which children attend, again we will support them.

However, if some schools think they would not be able to guarantee the safety of pupils and staff by readmitting additional children on 1st June and decide against doing so, they will have our support.

At all times our first priority, and the first priority of our schools, will be the safety of pupils and staff.

However, if in spite of these reassurances, you as a parent are uncomfortable with your child returning to school you have the right to keep them at home and we, as a Council, will respect that decision. Please be aware that this is a rapidly moving situation and it could be that some schools will need to change their plans. Having started to readmit additional children they may need to alter their provision. Please ensure you are signed up to your school communication tools and are checking regularly for updates.


We want all residents to know that we fully support our school community. Together with our colleagues at Achieving for Children, we have been impressed that despite the ridiculously short timescales schools have been given by the Government – they have pulled out all the stops.

The next few months will continue to be challenging for us all. We want to thank all our schools, children and their families for all that they have done. We are not out of the woods yet. But if we continue to work together, we will come through this – stronger than ever.

Kind Regards



Councillor Gareth Roberts
Leader of Richmond Council



Cllr Penny Frost
Chair of the Education and Children's Services
Committee