

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update from Cllr Gareth Roberts 26 May 2020

Hello, the Government has asked primary schools across England to start putting in place plans for the re-admission of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children from the 1st June, and understandably people want to know what the Council thinks about this. The final decision rests with the schools' Head Teacher and schools' governing body, and they will make that decision based on safety. The safety of pupils and the safety of staff. If they decide that it is safe to reopen, then they will have our full support in doing that. There will schools who cannot fully reopen to these age groups from the 1st June and may have to amend or alter some of the guidelines, perhaps staggering start times or alternating days of education and if they make that choice then they will also have our full support. However, there may be schools which feel that they simply cannot readmit additional children and ensure their safety and the safety of the staff. If that is the case and they take the difficult decision not to readmit children from the 1st June, they will have our full support. Of course, the final say is with parents. Those parents who have children within the affected year groups, if they feel that it is unsafe at this time to return to school then they do not have to send their children back to school. It is their choice. Of course, this is a fluid situation and things change. It is vital that if you have children within these year groups that you're checking the communications from school on a regular basis because even if they reopen on the 1st June, they may find that they need to change their plans. So, do keep in touch with your local schools. If you have any questions about your individual school, then the best people to contact are the schools themselves. I hope that's made the Council's position clear. Thank you.