



Ox Close Federation

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Executive Headteacher – Mr D Harrison

Head of School – Miss A Bowden

Head of Nursery – Mrs J Taylor

Wednesday 27th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to you to provide an update on our progress towards the wider re-opening of Oxclose Nursery and Ox Close Primary. As noted in our correspondence throughout, the welfare and safety of the pupils remains paramount and this is the overriding principle in all of our planning. The Prime Minister is making an announcement on Thursday and he has indicated that it is likely that he will say that schools and nurseries can open more widely from June 1st.

Having considered all risk assessments and, more particularly external factors, we felt that we needed to write to you to give you notice that we will be unable to open more widely on June 1st. This is due to the current uncertainty around science, with conflicting views being presented by different groups, the debate around isolate, test, track and trace and, especially, the fact that the 2 separate studies show that the North East region to have an 'R' rate of between 0.8 and 1 and that one of those studies suggested that it is 'uncertain' whether the rate is declining while the other has the North East as the region with the highest R rate (delayed onset of activity cited as the reason). We have been seeking reassurances around the science and more particular local data but have yet to receive them, although we are promised some information soon. It is our intention to facilitate the wider opening of the Nursery and School as soon as possible but I am sure that you will understand our caution at what is a pivotal time. Many of the questions which we have relate to public health and of the impact of wider reopening on this. Our plans for Nursery and School are well advanced, risk assessments are almost fully in place and we are awaiting some supplies and deliveries ahead of wider reopening.

Moving forward, we will review the situation again next Wednesday (3rd June) in light of the information available at the time and give you an update as to our plans ahead of the week commencing Monday 8th June. We are hoping to be able to welcome those children who are eligible and who would like to return as soon as it is considered safe to do so. It is appreciated that this is a difficult situation for everyone and we appreciate your patience and we also thank everyone for their responses to the recent parent surveys. We do not make these decisions lightly and other schools in the town are facing similar issues as they look to reopen more widely. Our school and nursery leaders communicate continuously and are concluding the organisation of the groups for when the pupils do return. This information will be communicated to you over the coming days.

The Emergency Childcare service will function as normal next week and will also continue when the school has opened more widely.

We would like to finish by thanking you for your support and we will be in touch with further updates soon.

Yours faithfully,

D Harrison

Mr Harrison
Executive Headteacher

PSneath

Mrs Sneath
Chair of Governors

ABowden

Miss Bowden
Head of School

J Taylor

Mrs Taylor
Head of Nursery

