

The Coppice Primary School

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IMPORTANT UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

There is still a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety about the phased opening of school from this coming Monday. **We believe that the overriding message must still be keep children at home unless you really need to have them in school (even if you have secured a place for your child/ren).**

On Thursday 28th May, Government said that they would make the decision whether to give the 'go-ahead' for schools to open on Monday. This was to be conditional on 'the five tests' being satisfied. Government made the decision that this was the case and, accordingly, schools could open. However, you only have to check out the media to realise that these five tests have not been robustly satisfied (see the link: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/coronavirus-has-the-government-really-met-its-5-tests-for-reopening-schools/>)

In addition, government associated scientists are advising that schools should not open (see the link: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/independent-sage-6-key-findings-on-why-schools-shouldnt-reopen-on-june-1/>)

Decisions parents make now are critical. Given this, any decision by parents to send children into school must not be taken lightly. This choice needs to be made with good reason (e.g. not just for social reasons, where a child might be missing a friend).

It seems contradictory that government are recommending that only six people (2 metres apart) should meet at any one time, and then in the open air, but say it is all right for 17 people (if you include a teacher and teaching assistant) to be in the closed space of a classroom for upwards of six hours a day without the possibility of maintaining social distancing of 2 metres.

Though infection rates in the immediate locality are relatively low (sadly, 4 deaths recorded in the immediate area), we are not far away from Birmingham, one of the national infection hotspots. In addition, with the easing of lockdown, there is a real risk of a second wave and the 'R' number going above 1

Parents who do have children coming to school from Monday must realise that we are concerned, and will respond quickly and maybe close the school at very short notice should we think there is increased risk.

I reiterate, parents have a moral duty to ensure, if they are sending children into school, that they have followed government guidance on reducing risk, so reducing the risk of infection being

brought into school (e.g. no social gatherings like barbeques and birthday parties where others have been invited).

Before children are allowed back into school, parents must ensure that we have up-to-date contact details and be contactable at all times.

Only children who have been booked in via our Google form and are on our list will be allowed in school on Monday (to ensure we stick to a strict cap on numbers).

Take care everybody and stay safe.

Yours sincerely.

Bill Heptinstall