

Walford Nursery & Primary School
Walford
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Friday, 15th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As you are aware, the government have informed schools that due to the huge efforts everyone has made to adhere to strict social distancing measures, the transmission rate of Coronavirus has decreased. It is anticipated, with further progress, schools and early years settings may be able to open for prioritised year groups from the week commencing Monday, 1st June.

We have been assured by the Department for Education (DfE) that this will only happen if the 5 key tests set by government justify the changes at that time, including the rate of infection continuing to decrease. As a result, we are putting a plan into place for our school re-start response.

From Monday, 1st June, the DfE have asked all primary schools to welcome back children into Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6. The DfE is keen for children to return to school as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because we know how important it is for their mental well-being to have social interactions with their peers, carers and teachers. Children returning to school in greater numbers will also allow more families to return to work.

Based on the government's latest scientific advice, we are planning to gradually increase the numbers of children attending school. By returning children gradually, we can initially reduce the numbers in classrooms compared to usual and put protective measures in place to reduce risk.

For your information, we will only welcome additional year groups if the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus indicates it is appropriate to have larger numbers of children in school. **The safety of the children and the staff is our utmost priority.** We aim to organise a safe system whereby the impact of changes will be monitored closely, working alongside medical, scientific advisors and sector leaders in education.

What if my child is eligible but has siblings who are not?

Only the children in the priority groups are invited to return to school on Monday, 1st June 2020. This does not include siblings in different year groups, unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of critical workers, Nursery, Year R, Year 1 or Year 6. The government's ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the summer holidays in order to enjoy one month, if feasible, with their class teacher and peers. However, this will be kept under close review.



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Whilst we appreciate fully your apprehension and concerns around the health and safety of your child(ren) during this unprecedented time, we would be most grateful if you would indicate whether or not your child(ren) will return to school, should it be available from Monday, 1st June. These decisions are difficult, however, please be assured that the health and safety of the whole Walford family... our children, our staff and every family is paramount.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all, once again, for your incredible engagement with Walford's remote home-learning offer and for your continued support throughout the challenges we have faced together in recent times.

Stay safe and keep smiling!

Yours sincerely



Ms L. George
Headteacher

Walford Nursery & Primary School Re-Start Strategy

Name of Child: _____

Year Group: Year R / Year 1 / Year 6

Please indicate your preferences below and return to admin@walford.hereford.sch.uk at your earliest convenience.

	Please tick
My child will be returning to school, if it opens on Monday 1 st June.	
My child will not be returning to school, if it opens on Monday 1 st June.	



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