

Dear Parents and Carers of All Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust Schools,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of Trustees at Oak Trees to outline the Trust Board and Headteachers' agreed pathway forward in relation to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

There has been significant press coverage in recent weeks over when and how schools are to begin to open to more pupils, with the Government stance being that schools are to welcome back more pupils from June 1st as long as a number of milestones are met.

The Oak Trees MAT Trust Board have overall responsibility for agreeing our approach to reopening, and we have debated long and hard about how and when we should be opening up for more pupils. In light of this, the Trust Board met on 20th May with the MAT Headteachers and Executive Team to formally agree our pathway forward, and at the meeting the following unanimous decisions were taken:

- a. Whilst the Government plan is that schools should begin to open for more pupils from June 1st, as a Trust we have agreed that we will only open when staff, unions and our health and safety assessors agree that it is safe to do so. Thus, in line with Wirral Local Authority policy, we do not feel that we will be in a position to open on the 1st June.
- b. To provide parents and staff with more clarity, we have agreed that all Oak Trees MAT schools will open to more pupils on Tuesday June 9th **at the earliest**, and this will only be if there is sufficient agreement from all stakeholders and the Trust Board (**we will of course continue to provide childcare for key worker children and children in vulnerable groups**). Whilst we understand that this decision may be disappointing for some parents, I am sure that you agree with us that the health, safety and welfare of staff and pupils is the number one priority for us all, and as such it is vital that we work with all parties to make the schools as safe as we can for more pupils to return.
- c. The Trust Board and Headteachers have agreed that pupils will return in an order according to the Government guidance which is as follows:
 1. Key Worker children, vulnerable pupils and those with an Educational Health Care Plan
 2. Nursery/Foundation 1 pupils
 3. Reception/Foundation 2 Pupils
 4. Year 1 Pupils
 5. Year 6 Pupils
- d. Each school across the Trust will close for one afternoon per week for enhanced cleaning throughout the setting and to enable teachers to have their Preparation, Planning and Assessment time. Headteachers will notify parents of the day when their plans are finalised.

It will be up to each school to individually plan how and when these groups of pupils are welcomed back to school, and this may be on different dates and in different ways across our schools. I would also make clear that we will do everything we can to welcome these groups back to school, but this will only be done if we deem that we have the sufficient staffing and rooms in place to manage a high number of pupils in much smaller groups whilst maintaining social distancing. We understand that this may be frustrating from a parent perspective, but at all times we have and will continue to follow Government guidelines and local intelligence to maximise the safety of our pupils and staff, which must come first.

let's school

Stanton Road
Primary School
Stanton Road
Bebington, Wirral
UK
CH63 3HW

Website: oaktreesmat.co.uk
Telephone: 0151 334 1398
Email: admin@oaktreesmat.co.uk

Companies house Number:
1064 1561

Our schools

Great Meols Primary School
Poulton Lancelyn Primary School
Egremont Primary School
Stanton Road Primary School
Church Drive Primary School



I would like to make clear that the date that we are provisionally proposing to return and the order of pupils returning may differ from neighbouring schools in the local area and beyond Wirral. As a Trust, I can assure you that we have made the above decisions as we feel that this is the right pathway for our schools in light of local and national policy.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Trust Board to thank our staff for their ongoing hard work during the current crisis. The MAT Values of CARE have been demonstrated throughout across the schools, and we are very grateful to all our staff who go the extra mile for their schools and your children. It is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Owens

Chair of Trustees

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust