

23rd May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Further to my letter dated 21st May 2020, we have continued to do our day to day risk assessments regarding reopening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on the 1st June 2020.

We constantly listen to the latest scientific advice.

Yesterday; advice by the chief scientific adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance, regarding the reopening of schools said **reopening was likely to push the virus reproduction 'R' rate up. He said to quote: 'The risk for children is much lower. They are at low risk – but not zero risk.'** Furthermore, other scientific advice yesterday indicates we will know more in two weeks about the prospect of children catching or passing the virus.

Although we are very much ready, with our safety measures, to reopen for: Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 with this latest scientific advice, we have reflected and have made the decision that it is not 'safe,' at this stage, to reopen as proposed on June 1st 2020.

We must appreciate the rates of infection are different throughout our country and we must look at what is applicable to us in Birmingham. We absolutely feel we have to watch how the science and 'R' rate unfolds over the next 14 days for us in Birmingham and so Dorrington Academy is not prepared at this stage to put any child, parent and member of staff at risk. With yesterday's latest scientific advice, we have a 'duty of care' to wait until we really do get further scientific advice that it is actually safe to do so.

We appreciate some of you may be disappointed with our decision, especially, as we all want our children to be back at Dorrington having social interaction and face to face learning; but if we look at this ever changing picture we hope you recognise it is of paramount importance to our community's safety that we wait a little longer for more reassurances scientifically that it is safe for our academy to reopen.

We will monitor and review daily after half term and we will inform you as soon as our position on reopening changes.

In the meantime, rest assured, homework will continue weekly after half term for every year group.

We will remain open for key workers.

Please respect our decision, which certainly has not been taken lightly. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



L Barratt

Headteacher