

Whitefield Primary School

Oaklands Drive, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0RH.

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a funny old couple of weeks it has been in schools. I thought it timely to give you a bit of a Whitefield positional update.

Re-opening of school

Following the Lancashire County Council update this morning, schools are able to invite more children in to school from 22nd June 2020. For Whitefield, this begins with Year 6. The rationale behind Year 6 being the first year group in to school is to enable an older year group to work through the procedures as identified in our risk assessment document (available on the school website) and respond quickly and efficiently to any changes we might need to make.

All year 6 families received a letter this morning outlining how the return to school will be managed with a second request for an updated 'yes/no' to whether you will send your child back to school.

Tomorrow the leadership team are meeting to talk through how we can move forward with bringing further year groups in to school. We are bound by many government restrictions as I know you will be aware of from current press reports. The key ones for us at Whitefield are:

- we are only able to have the children in groups (bubbles) of 15 however some of our classrooms can only accommodate 11 children so this reduces how many children can come back in to school at any one time
- we are also currently operating four key worker hub groups in school, with the potential of a fifth needed soon. All of these groups need to be staffed by a teacher and teaching assistant and so reduces the number of staff available across the rest of school.

I will update you as soon as we have further plans in place.

I realise that this is not ideal for many of you needing to continue to or return to work and I am also aware how stressful this situation may be for you. I must ask you though to refrain from posting unnecessary and unpleasant comments on whatsapp groups and Facebook about the work we are doing in school. It is not helpful.

Staffing News

We have some changes in our staffing for September. As many of you know, Mrs Nugent starts her maternity leave in the summer holidays and we look forward to meeting Baby Nugent.

Mrs Smith is leaving us for a year to take up a secondment as Deputy Headteacher at St Stephen's Primary School in Preston. Congratulations to her!

And Miss Sledge, who joined us from St Teresa's Primary School in Penwortham after Mr Keogh left has secured a permanent teaching post at...St Teresa's Primary School in Penwortham! Congratulations to Miss Sledge!

Good news is Miss Ashcroft is returning from her maternity leave and will be joining us in September 2020.

So we have some spaces to fill! An advert is being placed this week for two new teachers.

Due to the timescale of this, I will be unable to inform you of your child's new class teachers until late in this summer term, but as always, as soon as we know you will know.

The Whitefield Bear – the naming ceremony will be taking place very soon!

Thank you, as always, for your continued patience and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Foster

Headteacher