



# BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newtown, Broad Chalke, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 5DS.

Tel: 01722 780212

e-mail: [admin@broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk) website: [www.broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

## Deferral of date to open to YR, Y1 and Y6

At the governors meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May, the feasibility of opening to YR, Y1 and Y6 on 1<sup>st</sup> June was discussed. The governors are united in their desire to go ahead with a phased opening but had an open and honest discussion about the challenge presented by the date June 1<sup>st</sup>.

It was decided that this date presented the school with an unrealistic time scale in which to prepare for the safe return of potentially 84 children. The governors have decided that it is necessary to postpone the **proposed** start date to **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** (subject still to the results of the scientific advice). However, the school will continue to be open to the children of key workers from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, just as we have for the past 9 weeks.

The reason that the governors have taken this decision is because staff will need to be trained in order to work in a completely different way. The whole staff will need training to adapt our school environment in order to abide by the new rules and new regime which will need to be in place. Whilst it is recognised that it is of the utmost importance for children to resume their education, so they can learn and interact with their peers, the governors have a responsibility to ensure that this is implemented in such a way that the phased return of pupils is managed safely. **Wiltshire Council are fully supporting schools in taking this phased approach in order to open safely in the best interests of children and staff.**

The training needs to take into account the physical space and the requirements of each class, including the importance of supporting the children's well-being. Staff need to be 'walked through' how all of these changes are going to work in practice. Training will take place at different times and at a safe distance with each of the 4 staff teams which we have set up for each class 'bubble' so not all staff can be trained in 1 day. You may have heard about these 'bubbles' in the media so let me explain more.

## Bubbles

The children in each year group (plus the key worker group) will have contact with a team of adults they know well. The staff team will be dedicated to each year group (plus the key worker group) and they will not be supervising other year groups (or the key worker group). The team will be led by the class teacher and supported by the teaching assistants. The same team will cover lunchtimes and playtimes so that no other adults come into that group in close contact. Some of the team will be teaching both the A group and the B group as we only have 1 teacher in these year groups and all the other teachers are needed both for the key worker group (on a rota) and to continue with daily home learning tasks for Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5.

I hope that parents will appreciate that the school can only open to these year groups once all staff are fully briefed and trained in the new working practices and protocols. In giving ourselves the necessary time to do this, we will ensure a calm and ordered return with a whole staff team who are confident and ready to safely welcome the children back. We are all looking forward to this new start together.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Amanda Brockway  
Headteacher

