



Warrington Road  
Goose Green, Wigan,  
Lancashire WN3 6SB

Tel: 01942 243 068

Fax: 01942 826 748

Web: [www.stpaulswigan.org.uk](http://www.stpaulswigan.org.uk)

**Headteacher:** Mrs A E Jackson, B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

2 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Phased reopening of St Paul's School.

I hope that you are coping with these strange times as well as possible. Following a week of intense planning, decision making and the release of more guidance from the local authority and our academy trust, I find myself in the position of having to change the plans which I had already communicated to you.

As you aware, I originally intended to begin a phased reopening of school to Reception class and Year 1 from 8<sup>th</sup> June in line with recommendations from the government and our academy trust. Late on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, Wigan Local Authority released further guidance in relation to when schools should consider opening to a wider range of pupils.

This guidance was made on the recommendation of Kate Arden who is the director of public health in Wigan. She has stated that, although the five tests identified by the government may have been met nationally, on a more local scale she does not consider them to be met for the Wigan area. Currently the death rate for Wigan is the third highest in Greater Manchester and she does not feel that the death rate locally has fallen to a satisfactory level.

Secondly, she feels that we do not have enough access to sufficient data relating to the transmission rate of COVID 19 at a local level to effectively assess the local 'R' rate. At present the national R rate is 0.7 to 1 and the R rate for the North West is estimated at 0.73. She feels that schools should delay wider opening until there is more effective sharing of local and national data.

In light of this information, Wigan Local Authority have recommended that schools in the area should only reopen from the **15<sup>th</sup> June**. Following consultation with our Academy trust we feel that it is prudent to follow this advice for the safety of all involved. We will continue to be open to keyworker and vulnerable children as normal.

All schools in Wigan will have done their own risk assessment and each school has a different number of key worker and vulnerable children. As such, although the Government's aspiration is for schools to open to Reception, Y1 & Y6, each school will have to prioritise differently depending on individual circumstances. Accordingly, the offers from schools within the same locality may look very different.

I am aware that you may be disappointed by the delay in reopening the school. As a school, we are looking forward to welcoming back more children, but we do want to ensure that we are following best practice to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A E Jackson



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