



## **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 – update on potential reopening to more children**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you all today as I wish to continue keep you all updated regarding our school's position to open to more children from **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**. Keeping you all as updated and informed as I possibly can is a priority. I hope everyone understands that this can sometimes be challenging due to working within the guidance and notifications from the Government and Local authority. I'd also like to acknowledge that I'm very aware that uncertainty at this time presents many challenges and emotions to you and your children. However, it is important for everyone that we continue to seek advice and work within this, in the interest of the safety of everyone.

As you all know we have published our prepared plan to open to children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**, as well as **emergency care children** in line with government guidance.

Please click link to view this plan: [https://www.aughtonchristchurch.lancs.sch.uk/serve\\_file/593565](https://www.aughtonchristchurch.lancs.sch.uk/serve_file/593565)

Whilst our school was preparing to open, schools in Lancashire received a change in advice from Lancashire County Council and were advised not to open on 1<sup>st</sup> June. As a Lancashire County school we followed their advice and postponed this opening to more children. Today, Lancashire have provided a further update. I would like to share this with you all:

*“Last week Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, our Director of Public Health, advised that schools and other early years settings that it was not yet safe in Lancashire to reopen to more children from Monday 1 June.*

*Dr Karunanithi will review his advice on Monday 8 June, and if it changes, schools will be encouraged to take the decision to reopen to more pupils from 15 June. If the advice does not change, the guidance will be reviewed again on 15 June.*

*Dr Karunanithi's advice was based on the concern that two of the government's five tests were not being met in the county. Having reviewed the statistics which showed there had been an increase in confirmed positive cases of coronavirus at a time when the NHS Track and Trace system had launched, but was not fully operational, his professional opinion was that it was not yet safe for schools to open to more children.*

We are working closely with our local partners and the NHS and Public Health England to build a responsive and effective track and trace system for the benefit of not just our children, but all Lancashire people.”

**If** on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June Lancashire County start to encourage schools to open from the 15<sup>th</sup> June, we will be implementing our published plan from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Therefore on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June I will write to you all again to update you. **If** we can open on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, this would mean that school would have to be closed on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June for further preparations. **Unfortunately**, we will not know this until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

### **What does this mean?**

Next week we are asking any parents of key workers to apply for a place for their child in our emergency care as normal. If we are advised we can open, I will write to everyone on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June to inform you of this and we can implement our plan as published. **In this instance**, we would not be open **on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**. Whilst I fully understand that closing on this day can present challenges for all families, I hope everyone understands the importance of having a day immediately prior to opening to ensure school is fully prepared for the wider opening.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you, your families and in particular all the children well.

Thank you

Mr D Kennedy

**Headteacher**