

Newchurch Community Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear parent/carer,

This afternoon local authority executives and representative head teachers met and made the decision to delay the expansion of pupil numbers in all Warrington schools by at least a week. Therefore, at the earliest, Newchurch will be opening its doors to Reception children on 15<sup>th</sup> June. The decision has been made also by our neighbouring local authorities: Wigan, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Halton.

Cllr Matt Smith, Cabinet member for children's services, said: *'This isn't a decision we've taken lightly, but it is a decision which balances the scientific evidence and advice with our own prudence and caution. Our decision to delay the wider reopening of our schools by a week also follows the regional consensus, with similar decisions being made by other councils and schools in the North West.'*

*'Our schools have made excellent preparations and, following their own comprehensive risk assessments, will be equipped to open their doors, safely, to more pupils when the time comes. I can say that with absolute confidence, particularly given our schools have remained open for some of our most vulnerable children, and children of key workers.'*

*'Our decision has been a difficult one to come to, especially given we want to see more children in schools. But, ultimately, we have agreed that the decision to delay the expansion of our primary school offer by a week, to the 15<sup>th</sup>, is the correct one – in line with our evidence-led, safety-first approach.'*

*'We have had to carefully consider many different factors to come to our joint decision to delay, including the most recent information from Public Health England. This one week delay will provide us with a further opportunity to review recent scientific information, its impact, and implications locally.'*

Newchurch will continue to remain open this week to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. If your child was in Reception and you are a critical worker, we have automatically placed them in the days you require, based on their siblings' days or previous bookings. It would be appreciated if we could use the opportunity to practise the arrival at 8:30am and collection at 3:30pm for those who have not booked wrap-around care.

Although we recognise the last minute change of plan may be inconvenient and increase anxiety for children and parents, we are sure you will agree that, as we have always said, the safety of the children and staff takes precedence and we fully support the local authority in their cautious approach following the announcement that the R number in the North West is above 1.



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It is likely that expansion of numbers will be able to go ahead on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June instead; however, the local authority have a meeting on Wednesday afternoon to decide on the next course of action. We will aim to keep you as fully informed as we possibly can as to any developments over the coming days.

As always, thank you for your valued and continued support in these challenging and uncertain times.

With kindest regards,



Mrs J Narraway

Head Teacher



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