



Waverton Community Primary School

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7th June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am sorry to disturb your Sunday morning, but you may now be aware of the ongoing situation in Cheshire West and Chester concerning the 'R' rate. Head Teachers met with CWAC officials and councillors yesterday afternoon.

Explaining the new evidence Director of Public Health Ian Ashworth said:

"On Friday Public Health England published new regional estimates of the rate that people, on average, pass the virus onto others: known as the R value. For the North West, this figure was 1.01. This means that the infection is likely to stay at constant levels, rather than continue the reductions we have seen so far. That central estimate has significant uncertainty around it, and it could range between 0.83 and 1.18."

An R rate below 1 was one of the government's five key tests that needed to be met in order to begin to reopen schools more widely alongside 'track and trace' measures running reliably. In making any decision to reopen we have to consider a wide range of evidence including, but not limited to the R rate.

As a consequence of all of the new information, the Governors and myself have made a decision to delay the wider reopening of its school on Monday 8th June and have now set a date of Monday 22nd June onwards. This decision has the full support of the Local Authority and is in line with other schools in their neighbouring communities who are also delaying. School will remain open from Monday only for children of Key Workers.

It pains me a great deal as I know how upsetting and confusing this will be to children who would have been looking forward to returning to school to see their friends. I know you will have all thought long and hard about the decision, as well as making other plans such as going back to work. The staff were also very much looking forward to seeing the children again after preparing the school for their return. I also understand how this late decision undermines confidence.

We will adjust our recovery plans and keep you informed of any proposed changes that we will have to make following the latest delay to opening.

I will write to everyone again at the beginning of next week.

Yours sincerely,
SJ Talbot

Simon Talbot
Head Teacher

The full CWAC statement that was released last night can be found attached