



Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to you prior to the children returning to school next Wednesday to ask for your support in ensuring the return to school is as smooth as possible.

We have continued to work with our health and safety support provider and Wade Deacon Trust over the summer period to ensure that our plans and risk assessments are robust and also to ensure that our site is prepared for the wider return of the children in line with government and PHE guidance.

The letter that was issued on 15th July that outlined our organisational plans for next week is key.

It is of paramount importance that you re read this letter so that you are able to support us in implementing the measures we need to take. (see coronavirus tab on school website for this letter)

Since this letter was published, the issue of face masks in school has been heavily in the news. At this moment, in line with government advice for primary age pupils, we will not expect pupils to wear face masks for school. In the event of any further guidance being issued for primary schools, we will adapt our plans accordingly. It would be difficult for primary children to manage the use of masks safely and properly but if any changes are made we will respond immediately.

Next week, we will provide a further letter to outline steps that would be being taken in relation to home learning should the need for any form of further school closure arise due to a wider local lockdown or for a class POD to be placed in quarantine. In this case we will directly follow Public Health England measures.

The return to school may be difficult for some of our children and parents for a period of time but children are usually far more resilient and adaptable than we often believe and I am sure that they will settle quickly into the new routines and systems we have in place.

This is very much a time for us to work together to ensure our children return to school safely and begin the journey of recovery not only academically but also socially and emotionally.

If any parents have any further specific questions or queries regarding our return next week, please email school whistonwillis.de@knowsley.gov.uk and we will reply on Tuesday 1st September or alternatively, telephone the school office from 7:30am on Tuesday 1st September.

Parents are also encouraged to visit gov.uk/backtoschool for information and practical guidance to help them plan for their children's return to school. This includes the latest update to the guidance for parents and carers on what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term from the government.

Finally, I do ask you to continue to follow social distancing measures around school and avoid gathering in groups with any close contact between parents and children.

Have a lovely bank holiday.

Ian Cooper

