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Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

On 10 May, the Prime Minister announced the Government's *ambition* that all primary years will return before the end of June. On 9 June, Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, announced that this ambition was to be removed.

In his statement, the Secretary of State stated that the Government will devise a priority list so that, where primary schools have capacity, they can welcome back more children this term. The Department for Education has advised that they expect this list to be published next week and that, therefore, it will be advisable to wait before exercising the flexibility to welcome back more children.

The Secretary of State said: "We believe this cautious, phased return is the most sensible course of action to take. While we are not able to welcome all primary children back for a full month before the summer we continue to work with the sector on the next steps where we would like to see schools that have the capacity bring back more children to do so before the summer holidays."

Naturally, schools will be able to open to more age groups if they have **both the space and the staffing required**. In addition, we will need to keep classes ('bubbles') to a maximum of 15 children to maintain social distancing. We will need to consider our planning for all year groups once the priority list and guidance is published. This planning will need to take into account the increase in demand for provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers, which the Government maintains should take priority.

As the accountable body, the Board of Trustees for GLF Schools will make the final decision, once the guidance has been examined and the planning and risk assessments are complete.

I will write again when we are in the position of sharing any potential changes to our provision in light of the Government's priority list and supporting guidance. In the meantime, we continue to welcome our children in Years 1 and Y6 and the children of critical workers.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher  
Merstham Primary School

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Community - Aiming High - Learning to Learn - Well Being**