



Merstham Primary school  
London Road South  
Surrey RH1 3AZ

[www.mersthamprimaryschool.org](http://www.mersthamprimaryschool.org)  
[info@mersthamprimaryschool.org](mailto:info@mersthamprimaryschool.org)  
01737 643978

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I do hope that this letter finds you all safe and well.

Next Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, the school will open to Year 1 children as part of our plan to open more widely.

I am sure that you will appreciate that the decision about when to open schools to more pupils is a very complex one. The Trust has carefully considered the balance of factors. The primary concern is always for the health and safety of our staff, pupils and their families. We are however also aware of our pupils' educational needs, and parents' need to return to work.

The decision making has followed a thorough and rigorous process which has involved all our school leaders and our central specialists. Detailed risk assessments and operational plans have been produced for each setting, together with updated policies. All of this has been done based on the applicable guidance available at the time together with advice from Local Authorities, industry bodies and external specialists.

The guidance that schools have received from the government has been issued in stages, and has been extensive, including a range of updates issued on the evening of Friday 29th May. Our school will have to implement completely new routines in order to ensure the health and safety of both the staff and pupils. These need to be carefully thought through and staff thoroughly trained in them prior to pupils coming in.

We believe that by agreeing the date of the 10th June as the beginning of the planned return for individual year groups we will be in a better and safer position, with further reduced risk.

In summary, we believe that the decision which has been taken strikes the right balance between supporting the government's desire to get some children back into school whilst maintaining the confidence of our staff and parents, and ensuring the health and safety of everyone in school.

Thank you for your continued support of the school during this very challenging period.

Kind regards

Gavin Oulton,  
Headteacher Merstham Primary School

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