

# King Edwin Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure like me, many of you will have watched the Prime Minister's address to the nation on this evening. You will have heard the Prime Minister indicating that the government believes it may be in a position to implement a phased re-opening of schools from 1st June, starting with pupils in reception (F2), Year one and Year six.

I strongly suspect that the announcement will have done little to allay the concerns of all parents. If anything, I expect the announcement has only served to increase the anxieties of teachers and parents across the country.

Let's be very clear, all of us want to get more pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. Many of us have devoted our lives and careers to the care and education of young people - we do not want to see classrooms empty for a day longer than they need to be. However, as any headteacher will tell you, the first priority has to be the safety of everyone in the school community.

The government has told us that their decisions are being led by the scientific evidence. I believe that whilst few of us can claim to be scientists, it is reasonable to expect the government to share and explain the evidence it is relying upon. School leaders are still awaiting any clear explanations.

Furthermore, any plan to increase the number of pupils in schools must be practicable and manageable. In many cases it will be extremely difficult to bring back large numbers of pupils being suggested and maintain any sense of social distancing. AT KEPS we have been working on such plans for weeks now and will be discussing them comprehensively with the local authority very soon.

Clearly, at the moment this will be very raw for all of us and I know we will all have strong emotional reactions to what we have just heard. Like you, we have only just seen the announcement and at this stage we cannot answer all of the questions you may have for us. We are waiting to receive more information from government about what this means for our school. In the short-term, nothing has changed and we will provide further information in the coming days and weeks once we are able to do so. Please be patient with us and allow time for us to respond accordingly to the announcement.

I want to remind all of our parents that we are still the people who know our schools best. If the national guidance (once known) cannot be safely applied in our school, we will retain the power along with our governing body to make decisions regarding the safety of pupils and staff based on our own individual risk assessments.

While all of us will have many questions, I want to finish by reminding everyone that nothing will change immediately. King Edwin Primary School will continue to offer comprehensive remote learning provision and care for the children of critical workers and vulnerable families.

I will endeavour to keep our school community updated as soon as practicably possible but for now, take care and stay safe KingEdwinners.

Kind regards,  
Mr Callaghan-Wetton

