



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mr K Wright
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29 January 2021

Deferral of Schools Re-opening and Half-Term Information

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you all remain safe and well at this time.

As I am sure you are aware, on Wednesday afternoon the Prime Minister announced that the re-opening of schools would not begin now until Monday 8th March at the earliest. He indicated that when schools do open, he intends the opening will be for all children and all at the same time. He is mindful though that much depends on the success of the targeted number of vaccines administered and how well the current variants and any potential new variants are managed in the coming weeks, along with a significant drop on the pressure on our fantastic NHS staff and services.

At this point I would not be wise to speculate on whether this will indeed happen or not, but I assure you that we will continue to provide learning via Google Classroom which will be supported by a dedicated colleague each day and throughout the remaining weeks of lockdown.

I am very grateful for the wealth of messages we have received supporting the learning that we are providing for your children. We are incredibly mindful of the challenge this presents to you which is why we offer work that is of good quality, while also being realistic in terms of what you can do at home.

This will remain the case. Many of us are parents of young children also trying to juggle working from home sometimes with childcare – and we are experts. Well it doesn't feel like it at times with my youngest daughter and so you are in very good company !!

We will be there for you, and with you, until the end. Do not worry about what you can't do. Whatever you are able to do is valuable. If your child is stuck on something, just ask us, we are here to help. Thankfully, my staff are becoming increasingly confident with the interactive elements of our home learning provision in order to keep that important instant contact with your child from time to time.

Our inclusion colleagues are also available and many of you will know that we can carry out home visits (safely and under guidelines) if you need us to in order to support wherever it would be of value.

On Friday 12th February, schools around the country will be breaking up for half-term and we will be doing the same to give a sense of routine; some respite for my colleagues, and some downtime for you in terms of supporting your child's learning. Our pastoral team will remain available during the half-term holiday to support if you need them.

So, we know that Wednesday's decision would be a bitter blow. We want your children back, I am sure they want to be back based on their excitement back in September. We all hope that by putting up with the current situation for a bit longer, to turn the war against this virus around, it will be enough to put it in its place and begin to return to a more permanent settled situation with everyone being back.

We will continue to be in touch over this time.

Together we will get through this; we will continue to be there for you – even if a bit afar – until your children are fully back. Don't ever think you are not doing enough at this time. We will pick things up again in due course. Doing what you can is more than enough for now – so thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Wright', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Keith Wright
Head Teacher
Westgate Primary School