



Halebank C of E Primary School  
Heathview Road  
WIDNES  
Cheshire  
WA8 8UZ



Headteacher: Mr R Harley

Telephone number: 0151 425 5798

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. I'm writing to you this week with news of a few developments that have taken place over the weekend.

### **Re-opening of Schools**

You will be aware that an announcement was made on Sunday evening in the Prime Minister's briefing regarding the re-opening of schools. On Tuesday, the Department for Education (DfE) then published its guidance for schools: [Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](#).

This document is guiding school staff as we develop an action plan to enable us to reopen at some point in the future. The guidance states that Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are the year groups expected to return first and the government has set out its ambition to bring all primary year groups back into school before the summer break if this is feasible. The education sector is being reassured by the government that the safety of pupils and staff is 'our utmost priority'.

Please note that the start date is conditional: schools will only start to re-open 'provided that the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programmes set out in the Roadmap are operating effectively.' We have been given three weeks to prepare for a possible re-opening but nothing is certain at this stage.

Schools are being asked to 'implement a range of protective measures' before pupils return to school. At this moment, we are working as a staff team to establish how we can do this to make the school as safe as possible given the current situation. We are developing risk assessments which will help us to identify the safest possible routes in and around the school building/grounds, maintain small working groups and implement social distancing. Alongside its guidance to schools, the DfE has also produced a summary of key information for parents and carers which addresses some of the concerns and questions you will have. It can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

It is important that I am honest with you at this stage. This is a very unsettling time for us all. You will no doubt have read conflicting advice and opinion in the press and on social media. The only assurance I can give you now is that we are doing everything we can to prepare for these year groups returning. I will keep you updated with our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible so that you know how the school will operate, whenever we do re-open. Once I receive further clarification from the DfE, I will ask you if you are planning to send your child into school so we can make the appropriate arrangements.

In the meantime, the school remains open for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers. We know some employers may be encouraging you to return to work, but the school is not currently in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

### Home Learning

On behalf of the staff, I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your support in helping your child learn at home. We will need to keep going with this for the time being, so do keep checking your child's class page on the school website for a weekly overview of the curriculum tasks to complete. Don't forget to contact us if you have any questions or queries about the work being set. Staff have loved receiving pictures of the children's work, so please do keep these coming!



Mrs Griffin-Jones: [Class1@halebank.halton.sch.uk](mailto:Class1@halebank.halton.sch.uk)

Mrs Draper: [Class2@halebank.halton.sch.uk](mailto:Class2@halebank.halton.sch.uk)

Mrs Eley: [Class3@halebank.halton.sch.uk](mailto:Class3@halebank.halton.sch.uk)

Mrs Bennett: [Class4@halebank.halton.sch.uk](mailto:Class4@halebank.halton.sch.uk)

### Collective Worship with Rev Roland: Being Anxious

If you're feeling worried or anxious, join Rev Roland for another weekly collective worship session. It features one of our school favourites: 'My Lighthouse'. Click [here](#) to view it and don't forget to tell others if you have enjoyed the video. Thanks, as ever, to Rev Roland for putting this together for our school.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do send me an email at [head.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:head.halebank@halton.gov.uk) and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. If you need to contact the school office, Mrs Fenlon can be reached at [sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk).

Stay safe and look after yourselves ☺

Yours sincerely

*Richard Harley*

Mr R Harley