

Thursday, 11th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Wider Opening of School for Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

On Friday last week, schools in Halton were asked to pause and rethink their plans for wider opening following the news that the R rate in the north west of England was above 1. Having completed the necessary risk assessments and worked through our operational plans ready for the return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils, we were all disappointed that this did not happen.

The news this week is rather more encouraging (so far, at least). In a joint statement from the Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health published yesterday, schools were asked to consider a 'carefully phased approach' to bringing pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back to school. This will 'allow more time for the virus level to fall further within the community before larger numbers of children return to school.' The general consensus across the primary schools in Halton is that we will work towards a revised date for wider opening on **Monday, 22nd June**. Our Governing Board met on Tuesday and approved this plan of action. As ever, I will keep you posted with any developments.

Pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5

Parents of pupils in the remaining year groups (Years 2, 3, 4 and 5) will no doubt be aware that the government has now dropped its plans for the return of these children before September. I appreciate you feeling frustrated if your child is in one of these year groups. Once we phase in the return of the Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils, we will be clearer about how this will run on a day to day basis; should there be scope for other pupils to return before the summer, we will certainly look into this. In the meantime, we really do appreciate all you are doing to support your child with his/her home learning.

Home Learning

Please continue to keep in touch with your child's class teacher using the email addresses below. The staff have been so impressed with the work that has been completed at home, so do keep going with this. There are lots of great examples of work on the school's [Twitter](#) feed.

Mrs Griffin-Jones: Class1@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Draper: Class2@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Eley: Class3@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Bennett: Class4@halebank.halton.sch.uk



Collective Worship with Rev Roland

Reverend Roland is back! He has posted a new collective worship session for us on [YouTube](#) which features a guest appearance from Gilly. I am sure the children will love taking part so do have a look. Thanks to Roland and Gilly for the time they have spent putting this session together for the families of Halebank.

Free School Meal Vouchers

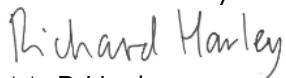
The Edenred voucher scheme for pupils eligible for free school meals continues to run through the school closure. Vouchers are ordered each fortnight and you should have received yours earlier in the week. Almost all vouchers have now been redeemed from previous deliveries; do check the expiry dates on each one. The next vouchers will be sent out during the week beginning Monday, 22nd June.

Best Wishes from the Halebank Team

On behalf of the staff team, I would like to send you our very best wishes in these difficult and frustrating times. We are all desperately missing our 'regular' jobs, working with you and the children. We very much hope to see you all soon. If you have any concerns or questions, please send me an email at head.halebank@halton.gov.uk. If you need to contact the school office, Mrs Fenlon can be reached at sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk.

In the meantime, stay safe and look after yourselves ☺

Yours sincerely



Mr R Harley