

Abu Bakr Primary School

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Saturday 30th May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians

Assalamu alaykum

I do hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones in the best of health and imaan.

I would like to take this opportunity to say Eid Mubarak to all our pupils, parents and staff. I'm sure although during these unprecedented times you had a wonderful day with your family and loved ones. May Allah (SWT) continue to bless us with his mercy and keep us all healthy and safe. Aameen

We are writing to update you following the government's decision to ask all schools in the country to re-open from 1st June 2020.

As you are aware, Abu Bakr Primary School has been closed to the vast majority of children since Friday 20th March due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Following this, the Government and the Department for Education announced last week the possible return for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from the 1st of June. The expectation is for school to expand further to take on all other year groups. I am writing to share with you the management's current thoughts and implications for our children and staff at Abu Bakr.

Whilst the school has been temporarily closed, our teachers, staff and school leadership have worked hard to ensure that the school continued to run online with learning material updated weekly for all year groups and communication with pupils/parents via phone or email on a fortnightly basis.

Currently schools are only open to children of key workers and vulnerable children. In light of the government's decision to open the school for some year groups, we have carried out several detailed risk assessments to determine the level of risk to our pupils, staff and parents even after putting special measures in place. After assessing the high level of deaths within the Midlands, Walsall being the worst hit, we are not confident that these adjustments and the current measures of the lockdown policy will not risk a second peak of infections locally. The safety and wellbeing of children, their families, and school staff outweigh the benefits of opening schools on the 1st of June.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, as well as four other pieces of legislation, places a duty on employers to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their staff and pupils.

The Independent SAGE committee of leading scientists says conditions have not been met to re-open schools safely. In their report (dated 22nd May 2020, page 3) it states that "Delaying a school re-opening by two weeks (to 15th June) approximately halves the risk to children, and delaying the reopening till September is less risky still."

The National Education Union (NEU) in a statement said, "Opening schools more widely runs the risk of increasing the R rate and therefore the level of risk to staff and to parents."

In light of the above, and our inability to guarantee the safety of all pupils, staff and parents (even after putting special measures in place) and due to the overwhelming uncertainty about the deadly Covid-19 virus, we have decided to keep the school closed until further notice. We hope that within the coming weeks much more will be known about the Covid-19 virus, we will have a well-functioning local test, trace and isolate protocols, infections in the community will be known and the ability to rapidly respond to new infections will be much improved. We hope that the number of new Covid-19 related cases and deaths will also be much lower, Insha'Allah.

We will continue with setting work for your child via HUB for years 2-6 and via email for Reception and Year 1 classes. However, we will now be holding some classes via zoom with your child. Further details with regards to this will be followed by the class teacher via a phone call or email in the next few days.

To reiterate, we will **NOT** be opening for the children in Reception, Year1 and Year 6 on Monday 8th June but will continue to offer the planned arrangements already in place for children of key workers and vulnerable children. Currently school is open for these pupils from Tuesdays to Thursdays. If you are a key worker, please could you follow the school protocol and book in for a place if it is needed so that we have an idea of the number of children we will be expecting on Tuesday 9th June. Please email syaquooob@abubakrgirlschool.org to secure a place for your child. We will contact you to discuss safety measures for your child and how we aim to keep your child and staff safe whilst at school. If your child has a place and will be absent from school, please could you follow the normal school policy and telephone school to let us know before 9:30am.

I would like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We may need to remain with this mode of learning for a little longer, so please continue to do what you can and contact us or the class teachers if you require further assistance or clarification with the work set.

Jazak'Allah to all our pupils, parents and staff, we are missing you all and hope you are keeping safe and well, we are hoping to see you all soon. Insha'Allah

Wassalaam

Moulana M. Ramzan
Headteacher