



Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear Parents of Children in Year 6,

Further to the letter sent on 3rd June, it is with deep regret that I am writing to confirm that at present **we are unable to accommodate Year 6 pupils returning to school on Monday 15th June 2020.**

Despite a great deal of work over the past week, we are not in a position to open bubbles for Year 6s next week due to a number of factors we have had to account for. Significantly, yesterday's confirmation that the government has dropped its plans for all primary pupils to return to school has already begun to impact the situation at Barrow Hedges, with more requests being made for critical worker places.

As previously explained, we have to follow government guidance; the most pertinent extract is shown below:

From 1 June, as more children return to schools, we appreciate that each setting's circumstances will be slightly different. Any setting that cannot achieve the small groups recommended as part of the protective measures guidance should discuss options with their local authority or trust. If necessary, settings have the flexibility to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups and then, to support children's early learning, settings should prioritise groups of children as follows:

- early years settings - 3 and 4 year olds followed by younger age groups
- infant schools - nursery (where applicable) and Reception
- primary schools - nursery (where applicable), Reception and year 1

We will all have our own opinion on this, in the same way that there are many differing views on the coronavirus pandemic more generally. But I hope you will appreciate that in my role as Headteacher, I have to provide information to parents that is factual and refers to guidance. That said, please be assured that we are extremely saddened and frustrated by this situation. We absolutely want to welcome back our Year 6s and recognise how important this is for children's transition to secondary school, and of course, to be able to complete their time with us at Barrow Hedges. We will do our utmost to re-open for Year 6 but if we do not have the staff to supervise bubbles, then we cannot accommodate more children.

This is a fast moving situation, with frequent changes in guidance and the situation with staffing being carefully monitored. **For this reason, I will write to you again on Tuesday 16th June with a further update on this situation.**

Kind regards,

Louise Wood

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Headteacher



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