

Tameside Metropolitan Borough
St Anne's Primary School



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Update- Covid-19

Dear Parent /Carer,

I am writing to inform you of changes to the wider opening of school. As you know we had planned to open to Reception and Year 1 from Tuesday 9 June. Unfortunately, we have received information late this afternoon to advise us this will no longer be possible. The Director of Public Health for the North West has strongly advised all schools to delay their planned openings until **22 June at the earliest**. We will continue the offer of childcare places to vulnerable and Key Worker children as planned for those who have already applied.

I have copied a section of the email sent to school's which details some of the reasoning for the decision:

*Members of SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies) and the Association of Directors of Public Health advised caution and concern about the too rapid easing of lockdown and the increased risk of a second pandemic wave. Balancing this concern, the national R number being between **0.7 to 1.0** and estimated at **0.73** in the North West and the importance of having our children back at school, I supported the limited increase in the number of children attending planned in the Borough from Monday 8th June.*

*However information released at 2pm today estimates the R value is now above the critical value of 1 for the North West, at **1.01**.*

Because of this change in R, and despite the excellent work undertaken, I am therefore strongly advising all schools and childcare settings to delay wider opening until at least 22nd June for us to be more assured that the rate of infection is reducing and R is firmly below 1.

As you will appreciate, a great deal of thought and organisation has gone into the wider opening of school and we are as disappointed as you and your children will be. I can only apologise for the short notice given but this decision has been made by the Local Authority and is therefore out of my control. I will endeavour to give further updates as more information comes through next week.

As ever, I thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Rimmer

Headteacher



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