

Director of Children and Families
PO Box 837
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15 July 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I want to thank you for your support and co-operation during a very difficult few months. I know many of you have been juggling work with home schooling. Your flexibility in adapting to what your local school could provide has been very much appreciated. In many cases, I realise it means that your child has not received any face to face teaching since late March. My thanks again for your amazing efforts.

As you know, the Government has confirmed that pupils in all year groups should return to school on a full-time basis from September. Head teachers in Leeds are now making plans about how this can happen in a way that keeps your child as safe as possible.

Part of their planning will involve keeping children in protective bubbles so that their contact with many other children is minimised. Head teachers will also take measures to maintain social distancing in school wherever possible.

There will be a lot of new routines for children to learn when they return to school. They may need to use different entrances and exits and follow a one way system in school; the timing of the school day may be different and their lessons in different rooms from usual; there will be hand washing procedures and different classroom rules. All of these changes are designed to keep your child safe but may be confusing at first.

Because of this, it is possible that your child's school will choose to stagger the return to school. For example, in primary school, leaders may decide to welcome back pupils familiar with the school and get the new routines established before the new reception children arrive; in secondary schools, head teachers could allot one day in the first week back to a different year group so that they can learn and practise the new procedures.

I realise that a staggered return could cause some disruption at a time when you believed that there would be a return to some kind of normality. I wish to assure you that this is only temporary and is in the best interests of your child. I am asking you once again to be tolerant and respectful of the decisions made by your child's school knowing that safety is at the heart of leaders' decision making.

I thank you for your understanding and I hope you have a good summer.

Kind regards



Saleem Tariq OBE
Director, Children and Families