



Winter Gardens Academy

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11th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

After the announcement that schools are able to continue to allow more children into schools in the same small groups, I have spent some time assessing how we can do this in a safe way and in a way that impacts positively on children. We are unsure as to whether we will receive further government guidance surrounding this and so am exploring options in the meantime.

While I do have the option to open school to remaining year groups for approximately 5 days each, before the summer holidays (this could be over one week or spread out over the weeks), to me this will have minimal impact for supporting children to get back in to a routine and for education purposes.

In my heart, I would love for all children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 to return to school for a substantial amount of time before the summer holidays but with limited space and limited staffing it is just not possible to do this safely.

After a lot of thought and discussions with my Senior Leadership Team, I have taken the decision to extend our school opening to just one extra year group before the summer holiday. This year group will be Year 5, due to the fact that they are the year group who have the shortest amount of time left at primary school. I do require the Directors to approve this decision before it can be confirmed and go ahead.

While I know that some people may disagree with my decision or be disappointed, I hope that you understand my reasoning and are assured that we are trying to act in the best interests of the children.

The provision currently in place for Keyworkers/vulnerable children, Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will remain the same. However, spaces are filling up quickly and we will have to start to cap numbers in groups to ensure each home group has the right amount of space and ability to social distance. If you are choosing not to send your child into school, but are considering changing your mind, you should enquire about this with school as soon as possible, as numbers will now be limited and spaces may soon become unavailable.

We are really looking forward to opening school up to all year groups and hope that this will be in September, if it is safe to do so. We will continue to keep you updated with government guidance regarding this.

Many thanks again for your support at this very challenging time.

Catherine Stalham
Headteacher

