

Dear Parents,

In line with schools across the country, LDST schools are preparing to welcome back additional pupils sometime in the summer term. In order to do this, schools are required to carry out a robust risk assessment and consult with staff and unions. Our LDST headteachers are currently working with key partners to ensure that schools will only open when, and indeed how, it is safe to do so. In order to achieve this, they are being supported by Health and Safety experts to carry out the risk assessment and to develop with staff a plan for reopening the school in the safest possible way; they are seeking approval from our Board of Directors and they are working closely with local authorities to find local solutions.

Today, Wigan LA has advised its schools to delay wider opening until June 15th. This is so that they can be confident that risk is minimised. All schools will continue to offer childcare for vulnerable children and those of critical workers but will not be open until then June 15 at the earliest for any other children.

Once schools can open more widely, it is important to remember that every school is unique and therefore every risk assessment and re-opening plan will be different. This means that, although the government aspiration is for pupils to open more widely in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year, they may have to prioritise to ensure the necessary social distancing is in place and to mitigate any identified risks. The children who are invited back first will very much depend on each individual and school-specific risk assessment and therefore may differ from another local school.

We want all children back at school and we cannot wait for our schools to be once again the vibrant learning communities that we are so proud of. Your support for our teachers and headteachers is much appreciated and we are grateful for your continued patience as we put plans in place to get this right.

Our prayers are with all of our schools and families at this time



Mrs L Kwissa

Chief Executive Officer