

## Urgent Carer/Parent Update

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We had just finalised plans for our 'wider opening' of school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June when I received a message asking me to take part in an urgent conference call.

The call was to explain why a decision has been made by Tameside Local Authority to delay the wider opening of Tameside schools for another two weeks, with the new projected date being the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

This would not have been an easy decision to make, and I respect the fact that all along, Tameside LA has said it will start to increase pupil numbers in schools as long as it is **safe and sensible** to do so.

Two days ago, the R Number (the really important number that the government has said is the yardstick for measuring safety across the country) was measured at 0.73 in the North-West of England.

This afternoon, the number had increased significantly to 1.1.

The Head of Population Health in Tameside, Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy, advised the council that this jump was too big and should not be ignored.

We have heard the government say that regional differences in the R Number are likely to happen, and this is what is currently happening in our area.

Tameside therefore have decided it is neither safe nor sensible at the moment to increase pupil numbers in schools, and so we will continue taking the children we already take, but no more for now.

Whilst it is frustrating for everyone, this is a decision made to protect us from the potential spread of the virus in Tameside, and therefore the right decision.

Stay safe, and stay patient.... We will get there!



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Headteacher: Mr R Elms

I have attached the official letter from Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy that schools have been sent to explain the decision, but I thought I would summarise it so you have the essential information.

In the meantime, staff will continue to be supportive. I wonder what other measures might be put in place across the region to help bring the R rate back down?

Best wishes

Robin Elms