



Brinsley Primary and Nursery School, Moor Road, Brinsley, Nottinghamshire. NG16 5AZ

www.brinsley.notts.sch.uk

Reopening 1 June 2020

Sunday 31 May 2020

Dear parents/carers

Can I start by reassuring those parents who have informed us that they want to send their child to school tomorrow WE ARE STILL OPENING. If you want to send your child in at a later date, please contact the office first.

I did however want to send out a brief message trying to explain our thinking behind this.

You would not be alone in being confused and potentially overwhelmed by the number of mixed and indeed conflicting messages that are circulating at the moment regarding schools reopening:

- 'Coronavirus: Drop plan to reopen primaries to all pupils, ministers urged' – BBC
- 'Coronavirus: School closures will leave children from poorest families a week and a half behind classmates, research suggests' – Independent
- 'Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June' – UK government (Department for Education)
- NEU calls on Government to step back from the brink and stop wider 1 June school reopening (a Teachers' union)
- 'Council tells schools in Nottingham to remain closed next week as education chief says it is "too soon" for children to go back' – Nottinghamshire Live (this was Nottingham City Council, NOT Nottinghamshire County Council)

All of this has done nothing other than create confusion, self-doubt and anxiety. Open up too early and we are putting our children in harm's way; open up too late and we are denying them a vital education that will damage their long-term education and prospects.

At Brinsley Primary & Nursery School we will not presume to tell you what is right for your child in this particular situation, nor will we judge the decisions other schools make to open tomorrow or to delay it. We have taken the decision to open tomorrow because in our risk assessment we believe we can reduce the risk (not eliminate it) to an acceptable level and we have acknowledged that the ultimate decision to send your children to school lies with you. Please feel free to look at our risk assessment on the school website for more detail.¹

While this is our position at this point in time (Sunday), this is such a changeable situation that there may come a point where we need to close again. The government may say this; Nottinghamshire County Council may say this; our governing body may say this; staff may feel unsafe to come in; or you as parents may stop sending your children in. If this is the case, we promise to inform you as quickly as possible and to continue to be transparent as we have been so far.

All we can do at this point is continue to support each other, irrespective of any differences we may have. We will continue to support you and we hope you will continue to support us.

As we would say back in New Zealand –

Kia kaha Brinsley - "Stand tall and be strong"

Jason Osprey – Head teacher

¹ <http://brinsley.notts.sch.uk/resources/PID109-2020-03-19/200531%20COVID-19%20BPS%20Risk%20Assessment.pdf>

