

FAO : All Headteachers

Sefton Council
Bootle Town Hall
Trinity Road
Bootle
Merseyside L20 7AE

16th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You will recall we wrote to you on 9th June to recommend that schools delayed wider opening until 22nd June 2020. This was in response to the significant publicity over the 'R' number in the North West. As stated at that time we wanted to understand what this meant locally and informed you we were undertaking work to understand this with support from our Director of Public Health.

In the last week have considered carefully all the information available to us and we believe it is now appropriate to recommend that schools do progress to wider opening for children and young people in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6, Year 10 and Year 12 from 22nd June 2020 for the following reasons:

- The available evidence is that the R is below 1 both Nationally and in the North West.
- All schools have carried out risk assessments and taken the necessary steps to safely progress to wider opening.
- There is sufficient PPE available locally and all schools have been provided with a 'starter' pack.

We realise all school circumstances are different and, therefore, not every school will be able to open for pupils other than vulnerable children and key worker children as at the start of lockdown. The definition of key workers remains the same as at the start of lockdown i.e. health and social care; education and childcare; key public services; local and national government; food and other necessary goods; public safety and national security; transport; utilities, communication and financial services. Further guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As numbers grow and space is limited due to the 2 metre social distancing then schools will need to prioritise the key workers' children as defined by government and vulnerable children.

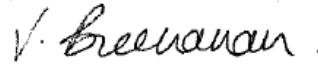
We continue to appreciate all the work that has been undertaken by the headteachers and staff in support of our children and families whether they are in school or receiving home learning. Our schools will continue to enable children who remain at home through a wide range of learning opportunities.

We thank you again for all your support throughout the pandemic in working with the schools and local authority to support your children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dwayne" followed by a stylized flourish.

Dwayne Johnson
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V. Buchanan".

Vicky Buchanan
Director of Children's Social Care and Education