

Mapledown School



Working and Learning Together

May 20th 2020

Dear Families & Staff

Our Governing Board met last night and decided to remain closed until June 15th. The unanimous view of the Board is that we must begin our Risk Assessments and complete the planning and preparation work needed to make the school safe for pupils and staff alike. The Governors will meet again on June 9th to 'take stock' and review progress and make the decision on whether or not to open on June 15th.

As I write 75% of families do not wish to restart in June so we are looking to organise the school to admit around 20 pupils when we agree a date to re-open. Depending on the final numbers we will probably need to rota pupil admissions into one week in and one week out. We may also rota staff on the same basis to minimise cross contacts and create 'social bubbles'. All of this is yet to be worked out.

I think it's fair to say that the government has work to do when it comes to gaining the confidence and support it needs to ease the lockdown. The blame game has already started which will not help matters.

We will be in contact with those families who are seeking a school place over the next week or two so we can get your input into a personal Risk Assessment for each child. In most cases individual RA's should be straightforward but there will be some that may be challenging. As you already know schools like Mapledown face very particular issues where our pupils do not understand 'physical distancing' and require close adult support to carry out many daily tasks. The overarching Risk Assessment for the whole school is very long – and needs to be tailored to Mapledown - but once it is complete we will post it on the website for your comments. Advice that relates to schools like us is often very general or simply non-existent which means that we are left to figure out what is best. If you wish to contact me for any reason please email me at: head@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk or call my mobile – office hours only please – on: 07804 039804

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Carroll".

Steve Carroll - Headteacher

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