



The
Bolton & Farnworth
C of E Primary
Multi Academy Trust
Together With God

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15/06/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, our Trust Board made the decision to pause our Re-opening Action Plans based on the 'R Value' for the North West of England being above 1. Public Health England had published an up-to-date analysis of the regional 'R Values' (which represent the speed of the virus' spread). Our risk assessment was dependent on the 'R Value' being below 1. The Trustees therefore felt we had no alternative but to pause our wider opening until Bolton Local Authority issued their directive and advice.

We have now acquired additional information from Public Health in Bolton stating that there are fewer than five new cases of COVID-19 in Bolton per day. Furthermore, during his speech to the House of Commons, the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson reported, *'Some schools in areas such as the North West are concerned about local rates of transmission. I can assure them that Sage's R estimate for the whole of the UK is below one. If robust data shows that local action needs to be taken, we will not hesitate to do so. But we are not in that position'*.

As a result, based on the evidence presented by Public Health England our Trustees have made the decision to continue with our wider re-opening plans from Wednesday 17th June. Head Teachers from our schools will write to you today explaining the wider re-opening plans.

We understand that pausing and restarting our re-opening plans may cause difficulties for some of our families, but we hope you will appreciate that we can only act on the information as and when it is presented to us. In doing so, this means there is a degree of flexibility required within our re-opening planning and as a result, it may continue to change when new information becomes available to us. I'm sure you realise that we only make these changes when we feel that not doing so could compromise the safety of our school communities; thank you for your continuing support and understanding with this.

Parents/Carers can feel reassured our Trust is committed to doing the very best for our families at all times.

Please continue to stay safe.

Canon Dr. Chris Bracegirdle

Chair of Trustees

Mrs. Jill Pilling
CEO