



**Re: School Opening Arrangements for after Half-Term Break**  
**School Places: ONLY for Critical Workers & Vulnerable Families**

Dear Families,

**School Opening Arrangements for after Half-Term Break**

Thank you for all of your emails and calls to School, in response to my correspondence on Tuesday. After my letter was shared, we received a letter from the Local Authority (LA) which I attach alongside this letter. The LA's position on the reopening of schools in Sefton is as follows...

*'The Department for Education has provided advice for school leaders to support them with the next steps on the reopening of their schools which may start from 1<sup>st</sup> June, however as a council we are suggesting this from 15<sup>th</sup> June.'*

*'Not every school will be able to have all the identified children back and not all will be able to do this on 1<sup>st</sup> June, which is why Sefton Council is recommending we aim for the 15<sup>th</sup> June. Sefton Council will continue to review the situation over the coming weeks.'*

*'Although the government would like to see all eligible children return to school it is voluntary and as such no parent will be fined if their children do not attend.'*

**Given the above statement; following our risk assessments' evaluations and our discussions at our Full Governing Body meeting, this week. I can confirm the following:**

1. There are only three teachers who are able to return to School after half-term break.
2. We have more children on our critical workers' & vulnerable families' list than we currently have capacity for. That is why I have asked parents to give us a definitive YES/ NO for their place.
3. Only the children of critical workers and vulnerable families will be invited to opt for a new place. That means a child in ANY year group who is on our critical workers' & vulnerable families' list can opt for a place.
4. We are unable to extend places to Reception, Team 1 & Team 6 families- UNLESS they are on our critical workers' & vulnerable families' list.
5. Until the number of teaching staff increases, there will be NO capacity to extend places to all other year groups before the end of this school year.
6. Capacity will be continually reviewed, in line with our local COVID-19 data and advice relating to shielding/ at risk individuals. Any changes to our capacity, which affect our ability to offer additional places, will be clearly communicated to families.

**So, going forward...**

1. ONLY the children who have already been accessing our childcare will be in School w/b 1<sup>st</sup> June and w/b 8<sup>th</sup> June.
2. Any additional places for critical workers & vulnerable families will be available from w/b 15<sup>th</sup> June- at the very earliest.
3. Any additional critical worker/ vulnerable family opting to take a place for their child (from 15<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest) needs to confirm this by emailing [admin.valewood@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:admin.valewood@schools.sefton.gov.uk) or by calling School- as soon as possible please.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding during, what has been, a very hectic and complex couple of weeks. With every good wish, **Helen Tantouri**