



# Plumcroft Primary School

## Plum Lane Campus

Plum Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 3HW  
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## Vincent Road Campus

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**Headteacher:** Mr Richard Slade

**Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs Annette Graney

## 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 is simply too soon

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

The headline of this letter sums up my considered response to the announcement by the government in relation to a potential partial reopening of schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Since the lockdown began on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, Plumcroft has been open every day for keyworker children and vulnerable children, including the 2 week Easter holiday and all Bank Holidays. Even with just 50 children in school, it is a daily challenge for children and adults to try and implement social distancing.

We had already been contingency planning for a phased return this term. Sadly, every scenario we run has significant operational implications that mean it simply will not work. We would all love to get more children back into school but we have 851 children on our school roll across two campuses. We have a total of 377 children in Reception (148), Year 1 (139) and Year 6 (90). To try and get that high number of children back into school in just 3 weeks from today is simply not possible in a safe and sustainable way, if any form of social distancing is a core requirement.

As Headteacher, my first duty is to ensure that all our children are safe in school. My next duty is to ensure that all our staff are safe in school. In my professional judgement, at this stage of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are simply too many unknown factors, combined with the operational impossibility of implementing and enforcing consistent social distancing in a primary school, to realistically plan for a 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 return to school for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

We have over 80% engagement by pupils from Nursery to Year 6 with our curriculum offer via our [Distance Learning Portal](#). Many thanks for all the wonderful MyOn Project responses and keeping your children reading (over 14,000 books were completed in MyOn in the last 6 weeks). All teachers are in regular weekly contact with all pupils and their families. Since 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020, more than 200 of our families have successfully redeemed over £20,000 of e-vouchers (*we did not use the government scheme as we were lucky enough to have a fully functional e-voucher system in place with a company called [Wonde](#)*). I fully appreciate how tough things are for all families during lockdown (*My wife and I have 4 teenage sons at home*). Please remember, even though it's a daily challenge for us all, Plumcroft has sustainable curriculum and support systems in place that are working.

I will keep the situation under review and I have another virtual meeting with governors of the school next Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020. I will update you again in the event of any substantive changes.

Regards

Richard Slade  
Headteacher

