

## Potential return to school of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6



Dear parent,

As you will know, we were proceeding with our cautious plans for the wider re opening of school to certain year groups. The last update said that we planned to bring the Y6 children back from the middle of next week and the younger children after this, probably from the start of week beginning June 8th. We also said that the start dates could be deferred if concerns over the scientific picture or safety warranted it.

This morning **Durham County Council has advised schools that the 15th June**, the date the government has put forward for secondary pupils to return, **is a more realistic date for the phased reopening to begin.** They have made this decision after new scientific advice was published on Friday 22 May and due to concerns that key issues outside of their control have not yet been resolved.

Below is part of the DCC statement, explaining the reasons for their decision.

“The advice from the Government’s Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), states there is ‘a consensus that evidence on the role of children in transmission of COVID-19 is unclear with a number of gaps in understanding’. It also says there is some evidence to suggest that children are as susceptible to COVID-19 as adults but advised that is not conclusive.

The council has also acted in response to data which shows the North East having the highest coronavirus infection rate in the country.

Its action is also in response to delays implementing the national Test and Trace system – seen as vital in managing children returning to school. The system will not be fully operational by 1 June, the date previously announced by ministers as when the phased reopening should begin. “

The safety of our children , staff and families is paramount. In light of this guidance the wider re opening we have been meticulously planning **will be delayed until after June 15th**. All our plans will continue to be subject to government scientific advice, Local Authority guidance and our own risk assessments.

I expect that over the coming days more information will be coming from the government. We will keep you as up to date and as informed as possible regarding the return of your child/children to school.

Child care provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils, will continue as normal. Home learning will continue to be provided.

I apologise that this is a confusing and difficult time for everyone but I know you will appreciate that much of this is out of our hands. Thank you for your understanding as we try to navigate as safe a route as possible through these uncertain times.

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

Kindest regards,

Mrs H Wilson.

