



DELVES LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7ES

Head Teacher: Mrs R A Woods

Tel: 01207 503984 Fax: 01207 588880 delveslaneprimary@durhamlearning.net

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31st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Update on possible reopening of schools

Thank you for your patience while we waited for further information on wider opening schools. As I have previously stated, we decided unanimously at a governing body on Thursday 21st May, not to open DLPS to more pupils. We will however continue to welcome children of parents who are critical workers and also our vulnerable pupils. The guidance has not been updated since 14th May, so we will continue to adhere to this advice.

Durham County Council announced the following information on 27th May:

Following Scientific Advice

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. Scientists have also advised government that the messaging to parents and teachers had to be 'robust' in order to 'enhance confidence and willingness to return. We have also acted in response to data which shows the North East having the highest coronavirus infection rate in the country.

A more realistic timeline

The information we have provided to schools advises that 15 June, the date the government has put forward for secondary pupils to return, is a more realistic date for the phased reopening to begin. More information can be found here:

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/23474/Council-provides-further-information-to-schools-on-reopening>

DLPS will have a Governor's meeting on Thursday 11th June. Following this meeting, we will update you about how we will proceed with wider opening to more pupils.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be creating a detailed plan to make sure we can safely welcome some year groups back, if it's safe for us to start the phased reopening of the school. Precautions we'll be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes to small groups of pupils
- Staggering break and lunch times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home
- Staff will meet Parents & Carers at the main gate, to minimise the number of people on site

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#) for further details of these groups.

I want to reassure you again that we won't be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing. We'll provide you with more details on the arrangements for reopening in the coming weeks, so you can make the appropriate decision.

Please be reminded that in the meantime, the school is still open only for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Until we're told it's safe to do so, we're unable to provide places for other children.

We'll keep you updated once we know more about when the school will be able to reopen for other year groups. For pupils at home, we'll continue to support you and your child with home learning, and meal support for those eligible.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office by telephone, or send us an email. We cannot welcome parents and carers onto the site at this time.

Stay safe and take care of your families.

Warm regards,

Mrs Woods
Headteacher