



20.5.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and the children well given the circumstances.

As you will no doubt be aware, over the last two weeks I have been carrying out consultation within our school community and planning, as directed by the government, to see if we could potentially reopen the school from the 1<sup>st</sup> June to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

These two weeks have been the most challenging I have faced as a teacher and have raised extremely difficult questions which have been even harder to address given the situation we currently find ourselves in.

In order to potentially reopen, we have looked at pupil numbers based on the intentions of parent/carers wishing their child/ren to return to school, consulted with staff to see if they would safely be able return and staff the school given the numbers of children involved and undertaken a very detailed contingency plan and risk assessment to see how our school would cope with re-opening on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Yesterday, I had a very long discussion with Mrs Leslie and Miss Howe, the Chair of Governors, where we evaluated all of the information available to us. After carefully considering all available options, and taking into consideration the experiences of the staff and pupils of key workers over the last two months and the constraints of our site, and with the full agreement of the whole St Aidan's governing body, it was decided:

**St. Aidan's will not re-open on the 1<sup>st</sup> June other than to the eligible children of key workers.**

**The decision will be reviewed every two weeks and parent/carers will be kept up to date with our plans.**

Please rest assured that this is not a decision that has been taken lightly and I understand that some parent/carers may not be happy about this.

As previously communicated, it was always my intention that this decision be made with the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff being of paramount importance. Given the possibilities that we've explored within school, particularly for our younger pupils, the experience that they would receive being back in the building would potentially cause more harm than good. I also feel that the extra burden given to some of our staff during a re-opening would cause undue risk to themselves and their families.

At the moment, we will remain open to the eligible children of key workers and online learning will continue as it has been over the last few months. This decision will be regularly reviewed and, if we feel we are in a better position to open at a later date, we intend to do so, but only when we feel the experiences of staff and children on site will be positive ones.

NORTHUMBERLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL

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I would like to finish by saying I do not know what the 'right' decision is for our schools in general but I feel that I know our school well enough that this is the correct decision for St. Aidan's. It has been made with our community at the heart of it and I sincerely hope that parent/carers understand that.

In the weeks and months that are to come, I would much rather apologise for being too cautious than being responsible for facilitating suffering, upset and heartache for some of our families.

God bless,

Mr M Moran

Deputy Head teacher

On behalf of:

Mrs S Leslie (Headteacher)

Miss A Howe (Chair of Governors)