



14.5.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well during this challenging time.

As you will no doubt be aware, the Government has asked schools to begin to plan for a possible partial reopening of schools from June 1st. Since schools closed, we have been open to a small number of children of key workers each day and I have been on site for the majority of days we have been open, supported by Mrs Leslie who has been working remotely. As a school, we have been asked to assess our current situation, make a risk assessment and discuss as a School Leadership Team if we can accommodate larger numbers of pupils.

I am writing to you today to provide you with further information regarding our plans and seek your views and plans should we be able to reopen. Before I do that, I must point out: -

The health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and pupils remain paramount. If, for whatever reason, we deem that opening the school to greater numbers of pupils from June 1st puts this at risk, we will remain closed.

There are a few things to bear in mind whilst making your decision: -

- Due to logistical and staffing issues and the structure of our nursery sessions, school **would not** be able to open to Nursery children.
- This will not be a normal school provision; it will be a modified curriculum adapted to best suit the needs to the pupils on site.
- Children would be split into smaller groups (with a maximum of 15 pupils) and an adult (who may or may not be their teacher). They will spend time as a unit whilst in the school and won't be able to interact with other small groups also attending.
- There would be staggered arrivals and collections from school, with no before or after school provision.
- School would be closed on a Friday afternoon to allow for a deep cleaning of the rooms being used.
- Children, who share a house with someone who is shielding as they are clinically vulnerable, **should not attend.**
- We will encourage the children to keep their distance from each other however, particularly with younger children who are naturally more tactile and often learn through interactive play and hands on activities, it will be virtually impossible to guarantee the children will remain socially distant. Despite our intention, we could not guarantee that children will not come into close contact with others throughout the school day.

Please reflect carefully on the above information in order to make a decision if you wish to send your child back to school should we be able to reopen on 1st June. No one wishes to see the children return to school more than me, the building is simply not the same without them. That being said, the fact that they miss their friends or are bored at home should not be your motivation for sending them back, as I'm sure it will not be.

NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

Samantha Leslie
Headteacher



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Sending your children back is voluntary. You will not be fined for keeping them off school, nor will school be penalised for attendance figures during this period.

Further information for parent/carers can be found here: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Our arrangements will evolve as we receive further guidance from the government and we have a clearer idea of pupils attending and how we will manage this from a staffing point of view.

If you are a parent/carer of a child/ren in the aforementioned year groups (ie. Reception, Y1 and Y6) please email your intentions regarding your child returning to school and any other comments to admin@st-aidans.northumberland.sch.uk.

The school office landline number on Friday 15th May will be manned between 9:00am and 3:00pm to answer any queries you may have.

Kind regards,

Mr M Moran

Deputy Head teacher

On behalf of:

Mrs S Leslie (Head teacher)

Miss A Howe (Chair of Governors)