



24 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We are writing to you once again to inform you of the outcome of our two weekly review to consider the possibility of wider school re-opening.

On Monday 22nd June, after consultation with the governing body, the following decision was made in regards to reopening the school to further pupils:

**St. Aidan's will remain closed to all other pupils other than those classified as vulnerable and children of critical worker families for the remaining three weeks of the summer term.
At the beginning of the summer holidays, the school will close to all pupils until September.**

The reasons for this decision have been agreed and approved by the governing body. As you know, in our previous communications, we have undertaken a very detailed risk assessment and contingency plans in order to ascertain if we could re-open to additional pupils.

Due to the limitations of our site and staffing and the measures that are required to be adhered to; we are extremely limited into how many pupils we can accommodate on site safely. Therefore we must prioritise on offering provision to vulnerable pupils and children of parent/carers whose roles are critical to the COVID-19 response. Due to the essential nature of these roles we do not want to find ourselves in a position where we cannot provide this provision. We feel that this would not at all be in the spirit of what we had been asked to provide by the Government at this time of national crisis and the thought of denying a critical worker the provision they need to go to work did not sit well with us as a school.

As a school, we feel that this fully vindicates the difficult decision we made to remain closed.

What happens now?

The concerns many of you have no doubt have mirror our own. No online learning programme and home teaching can have replicated the standard of education that could have been provided face to face by our very talented, committed and adept staff. The time children have missed from their school will have left gaps in their learning which must be filled.

Our hope is that, as the situation develops, all children will be able to return to school full time in September. During the final three weeks of term, and over the summer, our teaching staff will continue to devise in depth plans, as they have been for a while, for how they will meet the needs of each and every child who comes through the doors, at whatever point in their educational journey they may be.

Should schools not be able to reopen at full capacity in September, we, as a school, will commit to offering each and every child, regardless of their class, some face to face teaching on a rota basis until the situation returns to normal. These plans will be drawn up and finalised in the coming weeks and months and communicated with you in due course.

NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

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For our children in Year 6, rest assured that this is not the end of your journey at St. Aidan's. The wonderful contribution each and every one of you has made to our community deserves to be celebrated. Therefore a celebration event will be organised so that you have your chance to say goodbye at a time when is safe to do so and can be shared with your parent/carers and the rest of school.

Annual Progress Reports will be sent home by post on the 4.7.20.

We have spoken to many parent/carers over the past few months and discussed many concerns. The situation as it is dictates is that we will not be able to host a Q and A parent/carer forum in person as we usually do on a regular basis. We feel that doing one digitally would not be feasible given the number of participants this may involve. If you have any questions regarding our plans to which you feel require further clarification we ask you to submit them to admin@st-aidans.northumberland.sch.uk by Monday 29th June 2020. We will then endeavour to respond to them either in written form or as a video which will be posted on the school website.

We would like to finish by thanking each and every one of our school community who has supported us during this crisis. To our parent/carers, who so admirably adapted to the role of teachers, to our pupils who have no doubt shown resilience and adaptability that none of us knew possible and to our staff who have continued to serve our community in the most trying of times.

Once again, our school community remains at the heart of all we do and this decision has been guided only by your safety and wellbeing. The kind words of support we have received from you all give us the upmost encouragement that our decision will be fully supported.

We look forward to seeing all of the children, and yourselves, again in September, in whatever capacity that might be.

God Bless,

Mrs Leslie
Head teacher

Mr Moran
Deputy Head teacher

Miss Howe
Chair of Governors

Mrs Owen
Vice-Chair of Governors