

## Norton Junior School

Campsall Balk, Norton, Doncaster DN6 9DG

[01302 700303](tel:01302700303)

[admin@nisch.uk](mailto:admin@nisch.uk)

[www.nisch.uk](http://www.nisch.uk)

Headteacher: Adrian Hayes



XP.  
TRUST

Friday 22nd May 2020

### **Update on Proposed Plans for the Schools Provision from the 1st June 2020**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

First of all, may I start by extending my very best wishes to you all in these difficult times. I know as a parent myself how much lockdown has impacted on the lives of our children and can appreciate all the challenges you have faced.

Since the government announced its plans for schools to further extend their offer to include Y6 Children, we as a school have been working hard to get plans in place ready for this on the 1st June. XP Trust Executive Leaders and School Leaders have been working closely together within Local and National guidance to ensure plans are safe and effective for our children.

While we as a school have our provision already mapped out, both locally and nationally, there have been many questions asked around the safety of children and families by parents, school leaders, unions and local authorities. Ros Jones, whom I'm sure you all know locally, our Mayor of Doncaster wrote to the Government seeking clarification on a number of points. I am including a summary of her communication on the reverse of this letter. As a result of this, **in line with Local Authority Guidance, we are to delay changing our current provision and will not be extending our wider offer to Year 6 children on the 1st June.**

I am sure you will agree that the safety and wellbeing of our children and families are paramount at this time and although this news will be frustrating to some, it will be relief to others. The situation will be reviewed as new information is released and we will keep you updated. Until then, we will continue with our current provision and support you with our online curriculum as we have done to date.

I am also sending out a **survey on eLearning which I would ask you all to complete** as this will assist us to assess where the school can offer support and guidance moving forward. To access the survey directly, **[click here](#) and follow the instructions.**

We are not setting home learning for pupils over what would have been the half term break but of course, they can continue to work on their expeditions and using the home learning site as they have been doing.

I thank you all for your continued support and wish you well for the bank holiday weekend... may the sun shine on and the "R" remain low.

Yours Sincerely,

*Adrian Hayes*

Headteacher



## **Mayor recommends schools and nurseries do not open on June 1st**

Schools and nurseries in Doncaster should not reopen on June 1st, according to Doncaster Mayor Ros Jones.

Following weeks of extensive discussions with school leaders and trade unions, which represent school staff, earlier this week Mayor Ros launched a parents/carers survey to ask for their input.

Mayor Ros Jones, who wrote to the Prime Minister this week seeking clarity on the Government's plan, said: "This decision is a vital one for so many families across Doncaster for a wide variety of reasons, so I wanted to make sure that I fully understood the position of everyone who is directly involved before making a recommendation.

"There were three key points that were consistent across headteachers, trade unions and parents alike. For me these points could not be ignored and need addressing before we can open schools across the borough."

The three points Mayor Ros refers to are:

- 1. There is currently no access to data about community transmission at a local level. This means there is not enough of a critical understanding on how active the virus currently is in Doncaster to be confident about sending more children and staff into a school environment.*
- 2. Proper access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for teachers and sanitising equipment for both staff and children.*
- 3. A proper understanding of capacity within schools.*

"The word 'reopening' is very misleading in these circumstances, as all of our schools have been open throughout the past nine weeks for key worker children and those classed as 'vulnerable.' added Mayor Ros.

This announcement will come as welcome news to the majority of parents and carers who took part in the Mayor's survey earlier this week. 74 percent of respondents who have children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 said they do not intend for their children to return to school or nursery if they were to reopen from June 1st.

Other feedback from the survey, shows that key worker parents and carers were just as concerned about more children returning to school, with a significant number saying they may be less inclined to send their children to school if more children are attending.

Mayor Ros, concluded: "I am clearly recommending to schools and nurseries that they do not reopen on June 1st. I will continue to work closely with all parties to monitor the situation and keep this recommendation under constant review but for now the best thing for Doncaster is for schools to remain open only for key worker and vulnerable children."

The three points shared above reflect the wider Recovery Principles for Doncaster that form the basis of planning which are that:

- The safety of staff, children and families is paramount.
- Schools and settings need sufficient time and resources to prepare to reopen and operate safely
- Reopening of schools and settings will be a gradual process in full consultation with all stakeholders
- Every school faces a unique set of challenges and this will be taken into consideration when planning to reopen
- The emotional health and wellbeing of staff and children must be the focus once schools reopen