

12 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

### The wider opening of schools in England

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Following the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday, the government has now published a set of guidance papers for education and childcare settings to prepare for the wider opening of schools in England.

There is much in the guidance for us to digest. For now, I want to bring the key points to your attention and to let you know that we are going through a process of making sense of it all, with a view to coming back to you next week with our specific intentions.

Key points include:

- By 1 June at the earliest primary schools in England may be asked to open to children in nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.
- Secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges are also being asked to "offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year".
- The government will monitor progress towards reducing the spread of the virus over the next three weeks. Schools and colleges will only be asked to open more widely on 1 June if the virus "stays on the downward slope" and R remains below 1.
- The government's ambition is then to "bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible", though this will be "kept under review".
- There are currently no plans to reopen secondary schools for other year groups before the summer holidays.
- Vulnerable children and children of critical workers will continue to be able to attend schools, colleges and early years settings.

Government guidance for parents and carers can be found [here](#).

As mentioned, I shall write to you with more specific details next week. In the meantime, we will be monitoring how things develop nationally and contributing to discussions locally, with other schools and Northumberland County Council. Please rest assured that we will move forward in a safe, measured and sensible way in the best interests of our community.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Graeme Atkins  
Executive Headteacher