



**Mrs R Cook**  
Cotsford Primary School  
Third Street  
Horden  
Peterlee  
SR8 4EH  
DFES Number: 8402532

Telephone: 0191 5864660  
Email: [p2532.admin@durhamlearning.net](mailto:p2532.admin@durhamlearning.net)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the announcement on Sunday, which I appreciate has provoked a range of emotions and responses, I wanted to provide you with, hopefully, some clarity and an update on our school's position having received further information and guidance over the last couple of days.

Hopefully you will appreciate that at this stage I don't have all of the answers; I receive the announcements at the same time as you do. In the short term though nothing has changed and I will provide updates in the coming days and weeks when I am able to do so.

**We take the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously and this will be at the forefront of any decisions made** as we make plans for when we eventually re-open.

The recovery plan outlined by the government is about getting children back to school as the scientific advice allows, so with further progress we **might** be able to begin to welcome back more children from 1st June **at the earliest**. This is only if the 5 key Government tests justify this and currently, they do not.

As a school we are allowed to make changes to how we organise things and we are able to put protective measures in place to reduce risks. These measures will look different in each school and will depend upon individual circumstances and pupil / staff issues. This is what we are currently looking at for our school.

The government acknowledge that some settings will not be able to fulfil requirements. Where this is the case clear year group priorities are given for the school to work around. The plan doesn't say welcoming back all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. It talks about **increasing numbers gradually** therefore requiring schools to assess their capacity around safety and staffing. In order to do this safely within our school, class sizes would need to be much smaller and therefore a rota system of children attending school on a part time basis would likely be applied.

The hope that all primary children can come back to school before the summer holidays for a month is only if this is feasible. It will be kept under review. **Reducing risks for children and staff is still the utmost priority.**

Education settings still have **flexibility** to provide support and education to children and young people attending school in the way they see fit during this time. Vulnerable children still remain a priority within this planning. These flexibilities can include timings of the school day and staggered starts etc. School will 'look' very different when we eventually re-open.

The government also, and most importantly, acknowledge that schools continue to be best placed to make decisions about how to support and educate pupils during this period alongside staffing and local context considerations. Therefore, **any decisions made will be**

**on based on our individual school having carefully considered and minimised the risks.**

In the government plan, parents are being strongly encouraged to ensure their children attend but they **will not be fined** for non-attendance choices. We will not be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation best. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

**Please could I ask that if you wish to express your thoughts or if you want to inform us that you DO NOT INTEND to send your child to school for the proposed re-opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 that you do so privately through a Dojo message to Mrs Cook and you do not post in the general comments section.** This will help to inform the decision making process.

We value your views and want to make the best and safest possible plans moving forward for our school.

Thanks in advance.

*R. Cook*

Headteacher