



Red Rose Primary School

27th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Apologies for having to contact you once again over the half term holiday, but we have received important communication from the local authority this morning. We have been instructed that we need to continue to **only remain open for vulnerable and key worker children from 1st June 2020** for the following reasons:

- On Friday 22nd May, the advice released from the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) stated that there is 'a consensus that evidence on the role of children in transmission of COVID-19 is unclear with a number of gaps in understanding'. It also says that there is some evidence to suggest that children are as susceptible to COVID-19 as adults but advised that this is not conclusive. Scientists have also advised government that the messaging to parents and teachers had to be '*robust*' in order to '*enhance confidence and willingness to return.*'
- The council have also acted in response to data which shows the North East having the highest Coronavirus infection rate in the country.
- Delays in implementing the National Test and Trace system - seen as vital in managing children returning to school. The system will not be fully operational by the 1st June.

The local authority are now suggesting that the 15th June is a more realistic date to consider beginning the phased reopening of school. (Please see attached letter from local authority)

As a school, we now need to review our risk assessment and procedures for the safe return of pupils and clearly communicate these with all staff.

School will therefore be closed for a Professional Development Day on Monday 1st June.

If this causes any difficulties for key worker parents who have been accessing school over the last 10 weeks, please contact Mrs Brinton.

Unfortunately, we need to once again ask parents of key worker children whether they will be requiring a place from 2nd June. We appreciate that some parents may have changed their mind in light of this new information and we require updated names so we can effectively plan our provision. Advice therefore remains the same, **if you can stay at home, please do.**

Please email any key worker requests for this 2 week period (2nd - 15th June) to a.brinton@redroseprimaryschool.com by Friday 29th May.

Once again, apologies for having to contact you with a change of arrangement. We appreciate how difficult this is for everyone but ultimately need to put the safety of our children and staff at the forefront of all decisions.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs A Brinton
Headteacher

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