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**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Aycliffe Village Primary School**  
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Wednesday 13th May 2020

### **Letter for parents/carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**

Dear parents/carers

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, we are looking at ways of reopening school from 1<sup>st</sup> June for children in the year groups identified by the government. As I am sure you can imagine, there is a lot for us to consider and organise. When planning for this, the safety of your children and our staff is our top priority and we are also considering DfE, LA and union guidance. There is more DfE guidance due at the end of this week.

Some of the measures we will be looking to introduce are a staggered start and end of the day, children eating lunch in classrooms so groups aren't mixing, staggered playtimes, continuing with regular and thorough handwashing, increased cleaning, adapting teaching and learning approaches so there are fewer opportunities for children to be close to each other. However, I will be honest with you we feel ensuring our youngest children stay 2m apart at all times they are in school, will be extremely difficult to achieve.

To achieve as much social distancing as possible, with the space available to us in school, we will need to group children (rather than have full year groups in one class). Our thoughts are currently that we will need to halve classes. This means that your child might be in a group with a staff member they are not usually taught by – once we know numbers of pupils attending, we will be able to confirm this.

To help us with our preparations, we would be grateful if you could let us know whether you intend sending your child to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June. ***To collect this information from you, we will send you a text message tomorrow. Please reply with either YES or NO by the end of the day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May to let us know your decision.*** This will give us an idea of initial numbers of pupils to plan for, although I appreciate this might change over time.

The message from the Department for Education is that it is strongly encouraged for children to return to school. However, I appreciate some of you might choose not to do this, due to your personal circumstances or preferences. The guidance says attendance is not compulsory, no action will be taken and no fines will be issued to parents who decide they do not want their children to attend.

I would encourage you to read the government guidance on this so you have all information to hand before making this decision. Please use the link below to access this.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

I understand that many of you might find this a difficult decision and that there will be differing views. I would encourage you to approach this with a calm and open frame of mind and come to the decision that feels right for you and our family. As a school, we will try to do all we can to achieve the directive placed on us by the DfE and to start getting back to some sort of normality for our pupils.

Please contact me on [aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net](mailto:aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net) if you have any further questions. We will, of course, be in touch again soon with more information.

Best wishes

Mrs H Sutherland

Head Teacher