



Newsletter 11th May 2020

# Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you enjoyed the bank holiday weekend and any VE Day anniversary celebrations you may have been involved in. My personal experience was that these were a very welcome break from the situation we are in and a chance to see some neighbours, albeit from a safe distance.

I am sure, like me, you keenly watched the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday evening. To summarise, he confirmed that the plan is for schools to ***start reopening on a phased return on Monday 1st June (unless the infection rate changes before this date). The year groups the government have chosen to prioritise are Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.***

I know many families have the view that we, as schools, know more about these announcements in advance of them taking place. However, I can assure you this isn't the case and we hear this information at the same time as you. You will undoubtedly have many questions about how this will work in practice, as we do too. We are awaiting further and more detailed information from the Department of Education and will use this to start planning things for our school.

Please be reassured I will provide further updates, as and when we have received the detailed guidance and have a plan for how this will work in our school.

I appreciate this is such an unusual situation and I am sure you are feeling pretty unsettled and maybe even anxious about it. Your children may also be feeling this way. It will be especially challenging for families where there are siblings and some will return to school, whilst others won't. Please be reassured we will do all we can to make this as smooth and easy as possible for you and your children.

Please bear with us until we have all information to hand and have devised a clear way forward. After we have communicated this to you, we will then be in a position to address any concerns or questions you may have. There is no point contacting us about any of this yet as I am afraid we just don't have the answers you might want.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care

Mrs H Sutherland

Head Teacher

## **Update about new Reception Starters (for September 2020)**

This week, we will be sending out letters to parents of children who are due to start school in September. Obviously we are unable to confirm transition arrangements at this time but will be in touch again, at a later date, when we have some information about this. I know many of our new Reception starters have older siblings in our school so I thought this message would reach some of you.

## **We are still here to help...**

I wanted to remind you that, although the school building is closed for most children, we are still here to help and support in any way we can. Please contact us if there is an issue with your child that is concerning you and we will do all we can to help. Our email address is [aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net](mailto:aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net) and phone number is 01325 300227.