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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
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Wednesday 27th June 2020

Update about wider reopening of school

Dear parents/carers

In my last communication to you dated Friday 22nd May, I informed you of our intention for our school to start the wider reopening for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 1 from 8th June. **However, I have received an email this morning from Durham County Council advising against any wider reopening of schools before 15th June.**

The advice states that:

'The publication of the SAGE papers, delay in Contact Tracing implementation, and infection rate data showing the North East as the highest in the country, do not provide the clear higher level assurances that DCC, school communities and parents have been seeking. The DCC position has always had the safety of staff and children at its core.' It continues: *'In an ever changing COVID-19 landscape DCC is aware that these changes can cause confusion for parents, school staff and governors. However, as a Council it is our responsibility to take account of all the evidence as it becomes available and act in the best interests of all.'*

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader Durham County Council
Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet Member Children and Young People's Services

In light of this updated guidance, we will no longer be reopening from 8th June. Instead 15th June is now the date we will be working towards. Obviously, as always, this depends on further updates and information we receive from the Local Authority and DfE.

I fully appreciate how frustrating and disruptive this situation is. Believe me, it is for us too! However, as the safety of our children and staff is the most important consideration here, we must be responsive to any new information available to us.

I will keep you updated next week and as further information becomes available to us.

Arrangements will remain the same for children of key workers. If you require a key worker place and qualify for this, please email school on aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time.

Best wishes

Mrs H Sutherland

Head Teacher