



# DELVES LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7ES

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Update on Reopening of DLPS

I hope you and your family are safe and well. I just wanted to provide you with some important information regarding our school provision.

Thank you for your patience while we have waited for further information on reopening schools. We have had a Governor's meeting tonight, and governors agreed to move forward with our careful and sensible approach to welcoming back more children.

Following the recent government announcement regarding a phased return to school for some pupils, we have been liaising with Durham County Council to establish what is right for our school. The council is supporting all schools in the county, to establish a pattern and timeframe that works for them. They have provided support with a risk assessment, which is designed to put the health and safety of children first and ensure each school mitigates, to the best of their ability, risks associated with a phased return. DLPS has produced a very detailed risk assessment, which is reviewed on a weekly basis.

We have been working extremely hard to ensure the school environment is as safe as it can possibly be to welcome the children and staff back into school. However, for the foreseeable future, there will be continuous changes, some of which may need to happen very quickly to ensure that we can start to integrate more children back into school.

Your patience and support during these rapidly changing times will be very much appreciated.

We have set out a plan to make sure we can safely welcome Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back to school. Precautions we'll be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes. Children will work in bubbles of no more than six children with familiar staff
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Encourage children to maintain social distancing where possible
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home
- Limiting the number of people entering the school site

We cannot guarantee that children will socially distance and government guidance is very clear about this issue. However, there is a lot of work taking place behind the scenes to help minimise the risk to both pupils and staff.

## Next Steps

After a recent survey and telephone calls with Reception Parents & Carers, who stated whether they would or wouldn't return their child to school, we now have a confirmed list of children who 'will' or 'maybe' sending their child back to school. This has allowed us to plan more carefully our offer for Reception Children.

As a result, **we will be welcoming back Reception children from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**. Please see the attached 'Frequently Asked Questions' and the Reception flyer for more detailed information. Children will be welcomed back in 'bubbles' which are small groups. Each bubble will be named after a colour! Following this we then anticipate **welcoming back Year One children from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June**. Again, we will reflect on the recent parent survey and contact Parents and Carers who haven't responded to find out if they wish to return their child to school. This will help us to finalise our plan to welcome back our Year One children.

Finally, we hope to **welcome back Year 6 children from week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June**. Again, we have had many responses, and will consult again with those parents who haven't given a response. This will help us refine our plans and ensure we have a clear pathway forward. Thank you.

The attached FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) will give many answers to questions you may have.

**Further flyers will come out to Year One Parents next week, and Year Six the following week.** We hope you understand this plan is changeable and that we will keep you informed every step of the way.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Along with this letter is a very important 'Frequently Asked Questions' document, which we hope will address all of your queries. This document sets out our plans in more details to open to more children from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY AND PHONE OR SEND AN EMAIL TO US WITH ANY QUERIES YOU MAY HAVE.

### **Children with Medical Conditions**

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should seek a clinical opinion to inform our risk assessment, in order for your child to return to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#)

### **School Attendance**

We want to reassure you again that we won't be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing. If your child is unable to attend school due to being unwell or provision is no longer needed (key worker children/emergency childcare), please ensure you let us know by contacting school by phone or email.

### **Curriculum**

We believe it is very important that you know that:

- Whilst your child is at school s/he will not be following the Early Years or National Curriculum
- Children will not receive homework
- They will not be bringing any books home to read

### **Home Learning**

DLPS will continue to provide Home Learning Timetables for all year groups every week. We will also be able to provide packs of work on request. Free school meal vouchers for those families who are eligible will continue for children who remain at home in other year groups (Year 2, 3, 4, 5) until the end of this term (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July).

### **Emergency Childcare**

Please be reminded that DLPS is also open for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers, Monday to Friday each week.

### **Safety and Hygiene**

Children will be asked to use hand sanitiser and wash their hands regularly throughout the school day including when they first enter school. Children will be reminded and encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines although we cannot guarantee this will always happen especially with younger children.

### **How can you help?**

- Ensure children do not bring anything from home into school except for their packed lunch, water bottle, sun tan lotion, spare clothes, sun hat and coat – no book bags, toys, books etc.
- Ensure clothes worn by children are washed and changed daily – children do not need to wear school uniform during this time to enable this to happen.
- Talk to your children about the importance of washing their hands regularly, not touching their faces and what is meant by social distancing.
- Help to teach your child about how to apply sunscreen

### **Medication**

If your child requires any medication throughout the day, please ensure this is brought into school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June; this includes asthma inhalers. If this is new medication, then please contact the school office by phone or email.

**Thankyou!**

We would like to thank you all sincerely for persevering and continuing to work with our different ways of operating at DLPS. I would also like to thank our wonderful staff for their positive attitudes and readiness to respond to requests and go above and beyond to make sure we do the best we can for our children. Also, a huge thank you to our wonderful children and families, who have been fantastic during these difficult times. I would also like to thank our Governor's for all their valuable support during this unprecedented time.

If you have any questions, please contact us by phone or email. Details are at the top of this letter.

Stay safe, and take care of your families.  
We will see you all again soon.

Mrs Woods  
**Headteacher**