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15th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Potential Phased Re-opening

Firstly, we hope that you are all safe and well.

I would like to outline some initial information with you and to collect information from yourselves in order to help inform our planning for the potential phased re-opening of our school.

The government has announced that schools should start to plan for a phased reopening **from 1st June at the earliest**. This does not mean that all identified year groups will return to school on 1st June. Please be aware that the proposed date of 1st June is still an ambition at this point and is dependent on 5 key health measures being met; this date could be delayed with as little as 48 hours notice.

What is most important to us at New Delaval is that we ensure that we are able to put all appropriate and reasonable health and safety measures in place and tread cautiously with bringing an increasing number of children and staff back into school. I will reiterate here that any reopening of school needs to:

- Be calm and organised
- Prioritise welfare and wellbeing
- Be safe
- Be flexible (so that we are able to adapt quickly to any change in circumstances)

We would strongly recommend you taking the time to read the [DfE guidance for parents](#) to support your understanding of what is being asked of schools.

In order to help inform our planning and support our decision-making around what health and safety measures are required in school, we need first to know how many children we will be planning for. **Therefore, if you have a child in one of the following year groups:**

- **Early Years**
- **Year 1**
- **Year 6**

I would ask that **by 12.00pm on Monday 18th May** you kindly respond to the following question via email, text or telephone call.

Is it your intention to take up the opportunity for your child to return to school in June?

The information we receive will have a significant impact on:

- Group sizes (the government has indicated a maximum of 15)
- Teacher allocation to groups (your child will not necessarily be working with their current class teacher)
- Organisation and structure of the school day (e.g. to support staggered movement times, including break, lunch and potentially start and finish times)
- Curriculum offer (e.g. how the curriculum can safely be delivered whilst adhering to health and safety requirements, use of resources and social distancing)

It is our intention to continue to provide a service to the following groups as we have done so since March 23rd.

- Vulnerable children (social worker involvement and / or has an EHCP)
- Children of key workers (and where safe and appropriate care at home cannot be provided)

If your child fits into one of the eligible groups outlined above (this **now includes Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6**), it is still at your discretion if you chose to take up a place in school at this time. We fully understand that individual circumstances (e.g. any underlying health issues you, your child or any other family members may have) will inform your decision making in regard to this.

Once we have a clearer picture of the numbers of children likely to be requiring a place in school in June, we will be able to finalise the details of what the proposed return to school will look like. We will be in touch to share those details with you once they are finalised.

Please be assured as well that there is also ongoing planning happening for:

- Ongoing provision of remote learning for those children who remain at home
- Transition arrangements

Further details will be shared with you as soon as we are able to do so.

Finally, please also be aware that, as and when schools start this period of phased reopening, we will not be operating at full staff capacity. As with all settings we have staff who, for a range of reasons, it is not deemed safe for them to return to a workplace setting at this point in time as they, or a family member they live with, are at greater risk should they come into contact with an increasing number of people.

We understand completely that this remains an anxious time for everyone and that the planned easing of the lockdown will raise as many questions (if not more) than the initial introduction of the lockdown did. We are doing all that we can to address as many of the questions that you may have and to consider all details and eventualities. Please be patient whilst we do this and we will continue to be in communication and to keep sharing further details as and when we are in a position to do so.

A huge thank you for your ongoing support and understanding at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D T Worrall

Head Teacher