

Northstead News

Newsletter 19

Thursday 28th May 2020

Dear parents, carers and families,

As promised in my last newsletter I am writing to keep you informed of our plans for wider opening for more year groups.

While some schools in Yorkshire are preparing for a June 1st wider opening, Northstead Community Primary School has delayed its wider opening until it is safe enough to do so. In the first instance, this will only be for children in Year 6.

We will give you at least one weeks' notice of when we will be wider opening.

During the period of lockdown, we have stringently followed Government updates and guidelines and carefully assessed all of the information made available to us.

Throughout this period the health and safety of our children, staff and our local community has remained our absolute priority and has been our clear focus for any decision-making.

An Independent SAGE Report 2, published late on Friday, May 22, describes how the risk of children becoming exposed to, or catching the virus is predicted to fall quickly over a week or two after June 1st.

By delaying re-opening of school for a short period, this approximately halves the risk of infection for children. It will also allow additional time to ensure adequate PPE equipment for staff, and solutions to local challenges and testing procedures to be embedded.

Schools do not operate in a vacuum and what happens in them will have wider ramifications for everyone within and outside of schools.

We have a duty to protect our school community as much as we can during this unprecedented time; a responsibility we take incredibly seriously.

With this in mind, our Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team have made the decision to delay the wider opening of Northstead Community Primary School. During the Prime Minister's announcement, he was very clear that the Government recognise not all schools will be in a position to reopen from June 1st at the earliest.

Although we appreciate this decision may cause some difficulties regarding childcare arrangements, we feel strongly that the safety of our staff, children, and our local community far outweigh this.

Children classed as vulnerable or whose parents/carers are key workers will continue to have a place in school and children working from home will continue to be set work via the school website and supported remotely by the teachers via Class Dojo.

Please remember we are still here to help, guide and support you through these challenging times. Please do contact us if you need any help, advice or support, either phone 362249, email parents@northstead.n-yorks.sch.uk or use Class Dojo messages.

Stay safe

J D Lidgley

Mr J Lidgley