

# Cassop Primary School



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Headteacher: Ms V Hewison

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

This morning we have received advice from the Local Authority to delay our wider reopening of the school from the 1<sup>st</sup> June to the **15<sup>th</sup> June** - this is in response to the SAGE report on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

The Report states that there is, 'a consensus that evidence on the role of children in transmission of COVID-19 is unclear with a number of gaps in understanding'. It also says there is some evidence to suggest that children are as susceptible to COVID-19 as adults', but advised that is not conclusive.

After discussion with the Chair of Governors we acknowledge that although we have completed a thorough risk assessment and made adaptations in school to reduce the risk as much as possible within school the rate of infection in the North East is still higher than other places. The government also set five tests to be met, which are:

1. Protect the NHS's ability to cope. We must be confident that we are able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment right across the UK
2. See a sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates from COVID-19 so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak
3. Reliable data from SAGE showing that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the board
4. Be confident that the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand, with supply able to meet future demand
5. Be confident that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections that overwhelms the NHS

Looking at these 5 tests, along with 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, they do not provide the clear higher level assurances that DCC, school communities and parents have been seeking.



We hope you understand the difficult decision we have made however our ultimate priority is the safety of our whole community.

We will continue to set online learning work and provide childcare for critical key worker children.

If you need to contact school please email [p2362.admin@durhamlearning.net](mailto:p2362.admin@durhamlearning.net)

Thank you once again for your understanding and continued support.

Yours faithfully,



**Ms V Hewison**

**Headteacher**

