



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Update – partial re-opening of schools I hope that you and your families are well. Since I wrote to you earlier this week, there have been some changes regarding the re-opening of schools. Please see the letter at the foot of this page for the statement from Alex Dale, Cabinet Member, Derbyshire County Council, sent to all schools in Derbyshire advising on when more children may return to school.

From 1st June 2020: We will continue to remain open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children **only**. We will be welcoming more children from these groups and organising them into two separate 'pods'. Thank you to critical workers who have let us know what childcare is required from the 1st June. If you have booked your child in for the week commencing 1st June, we will continue to provide childcare as we have since the start of the lockdown. Please send your child into school via the main entrance and collect them as usual.

Following Derbyshire County Council advice, Harpur Hill Primary School and Nursery will not be open for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from the 1st June as hoped.

Staff have already started to prepare for the proposed re-opening, and we are looking forward to welcoming more children back to school when that happens. As outlined in my letter of 19th May, children will be in pods of up to 15 pupils and drop off and collection times will be staggered. I will write to you as soon as I am able to let you know when, which pod your child is in, as well as drop off/collection times and other information. We need to ensure school is ready, with safety procedures in place, to accommodate the increased number of children on site in the weeks ahead.

As stated in my previous letter, from May 25th to May 29th (originally the half term holiday) we will be closed to all children.

Thank you for your continued support in these uncertain times. We know the children are missing school as well as their friends and can't wait to get back. Staff in school feel the same! Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs V Giliker Headteacher



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Statement from Councillor Alex Dale, Cabinet Member for Young people at Derbyshire County Council – 22 May 2020

“We support the Government in its ambition to see schools opened up to more pupils as soon as it is sufficiently safe to do. To do this we’ve been working flat out to support schools in interpreting the guidance and planning to admit the target year groups announced by the Prime Minister on 10 May.

“This is an incredibly complicated issue to work through. Unfortunately, the guidance so far issued by the Department for Education has not always been entirely consistent or clear on some key aspects and this has created some issues for schools and the council.

“Due to the challenges that we’re having to work through with schools, it is clear now that many primary schools in Derbyshire will not be able to admit the additional year groups (reception, year one and year six) that the Government had envisaged by 1 June. This is because the latest advice from the Government is that children need to be 2m apart in classrooms, and that it is not safe to rota children through the week and more time is needed to work through these issues.

“The Department for Education have been absolutely clear with us that the priority remains the children of key workers and those who are vulnerable. In turn we’ve made clear to all schools that from 1 June their first priority should be aiming to increase the number of children from these groups.

“Then we have advised that they should also continue to plan for how they might accommodate children from the other key year groups (reception, year one, year six, year 10 and year 12).

“Every school in Derbyshire is different and their approaches to offering more places back in classrooms for our children and young people will vary.

“If schools do admit children on 1 June from the key year groups they will need to make sure they have the room to do this safely.

“We hope that secondary schools will be able to offer some face to face learning for year 10 and year 12 students, due to the greater flexibility they have in terms of space.

“We will continue working with schools to identify when they will be able to admit whole-year groups in the coming weeks, although for many of our schools this will still be challenging.

“I want to thank headteachers, school employees and governors who have worked extremely hard over recent weeks as they plan for 1 June. I’d also like to thank parents and carers in advance for bearing with us and their local schools while we continue to work very hard to deliver on our collective ambition to get more children back to school as soon as possible.”