



15.5.20

Dear Parents

Whilst I am not yet in a position to give you a finalised plan as to how we intend to increase our capacity and welcome more children into school, I thought you would appreciate an update on the steps so far taken towards that end.

I am working through a process of risk assessment. There are many factors to consider before I can be confident that any proposal is both safe and feasible. For example, I need to assess how many areas and classrooms I can safely open and how I can minimise movement and contact between persons sharing those spaces. I am planning what I can staff whilst continuing support for children who are still using home learning resources. Policies need to be reviewed and systems developed to ensure the health and safety of all. We are creating additional cleaning stations and sourcing additional cleaning materials. A programme of deep cleaning continues. It is imperative that we plan for the children who return in June to have a positive experience, that they feel safe and that we do not cause any additional anxiety.

I am working in collaboration with staff and governors. I have also been in communication with headteachers in Cramlington, the local authority and health and safety and insurance departments. I am keeping abreast of the continually updated guidance from the Department of Education and guidance from the unions that represent staff.

There are still many questions and few answers. I therefore proceed with great caution and with the safety and well-being of the whole school community in the forefront of my mind. The plan must be right for our community. It must be sustainable, help us to move forward and communicated effectively; a plan we can trust and have confidence in. It is important that we get it right and that will take time.

Provision will look different and there will be an impact on the taught curriculum. At present, I am developing an incremental plan beginning with the reintegration of our Year 6 children as well as offering increased places for children of key workers. I am eager that we can support our children who are transitioning to secondary school and are able, somehow, to celebrate their time at Northburn. I also feel that our older children are better able to understand the current situation and practise social distancing.

My priority will then be the younger children, starting with our Year 1 children but only if I believe I have the capacity, after I have reintegrated all key worker's children and our Year 6 children.

NORTHBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Horton Drive, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 3QS

Tel: 01670 739111

Email: admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

www.northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Scott



I know that you will all have pressures and that it will have been difficult to juggle your many commitments. I understand that there will be those of you who will be disappointed if I am unable to meet the Government ambition. I also understand that there will be those who do not want to send your children back into school, and I understand that too. I hope that you can all understand why I am taking the decisions that I am.

Remember, the office is still staffed and to please call or email if you have a query. I welcome all feedback. I am incredibly grateful for the support I have received from parents, staff and governors.

Thank you, take care and stay safe.

Clare Scott