

Update 01/06/20

Good morning,

Just a quick update.

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope you are all well. As we start another half term I realise that you will probably be experiencing the same range of emotions that we all are. I'm sure you will be doing all you can to support your child under difficult circumstances – and just like schools your circumstances will all be very different but I know you will be doing brilliantly whatever the challenges.

Last Wednesday we were advised that Durham County Council has taken the decision to delay the return of Reception, Y1 & Y6 children until 15th June at the earliest. From today we are open to key worker & vulnerable children – the numbers have doubled from June 1st. If you need a key worker space please email l.gowland100@cestria.durham.sch.uk and request a pack for this half term. We are now very near capacity so future requests will be prioritised (see table below) and a waiting list set up if required.

From the previous parental survey, the vast majority of parents with Reception & Y1 children felt that it is not yet safe for their child to return. However, more parents of Y6 children wanted their child to return if they had the opportunity. I hope by delaying the start that all Y6 parents feel that their child can return so the children can pass together through this important and significant milestone in their lives – even though circumstances dictate that it will be a different experience!

I am meeting with governors on Wednesday pm to consider how we can begin a phased wider opening to Reception, Y1 & Y6 given the restrictions of the building, the need to consider appropriate social distancing & government, local authority & union guidance. It is of course parental choice but we hope that all children in the named year groups will be able to return to spend some time with us before the end of term.

At the time of writing there has been no further information about the possible return of other year groups. One of my primary concerns is how teachers can continue home learning support for years 2-5 (plus children in Reception, Y1 & Y6 who choose not to return) whilst returning to the classroom. This is something we will look at as a staff as well as a governing body.

Since the government released the 'guidance' for opening more widely there have been over 40 updates – plans have been written, re-written and re-written. I will update you further by Friday 5th June – goodness only knows what will have changed again by then!

Keep safe,

Lorraine Gowland

FUTURE REQUESTS FOR KEY WORKER PLACES WILL BE PRIORITISED AS FOLLOWS UNTIL CAPACITY IS MET		
1st Priority		2nd Priority
Doctor	Teacher	All other critical workers
Nurse	Teaching Assistant	
Midwife	School Support Staff	
Paramedic	Police & Support Staff	
Social Worker	Ministry of Defence	
Care Worker	Armed Forces	
Production of medical supplies	Fire Service	
Medical Admin/Support	Management of Deceased	
Waste Disposal		