



# Stanley Crook Primary School

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OUR MISSION: TO TRY OUR BEST, TO TELL THE TRUTH, TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITY

*"Pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare is OUTSTANDING" (Ofsted, 2019)*

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## Update on the Wider Re-opening of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for continued patience and support throughout this challenging and unprecedented time.

Following on from our previous communication published on 20<sup>th</sup> May regarding our school strategy for wider reopening, there have been many changes and updates to guidance – both at a local and national level.

Recent guidance provided by Durham County Council on 27<sup>th</sup> May suggested that a more realistic date for the wider opening of primary schools to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 should be 15<sup>th</sup> June, at the earliest and only when assessments have concluded that it is safe to do so. As a school leadership team, it was reassuring that local guidance reflected and advised action close to our own school strategy.

Within our communication of 20<sup>th</sup> May, a date of 3<sup>rd</sup> June was set for senior leaders and staff to review ongoing progress within risk assessments and strategy towards securing a date for wider school reopening. Members of senior staff and teachers from across all year groups have today met to discuss aspects of our school strategy and progress made towards that wider school opening.

Assessments have also been made regarding an increase in numbers of more vulnerable children - and children of keyworkers - and the wider opening to children in other year groups, with regards staffing capacity in school. Due to ensuring school continues to meet national, local and union guidance, leaders and staff have collectively decided to limit numbers of children in these groups to 15, and postpone opening to more of these children until the 15<sup>th</sup> June. There were comprehensive discussions that took place to come to this decision. As we have stated throughout this period, the safety of our children, staff and families is paramount. At this present time, there is a lack of assurance that it is safe enough to open to more children whilst the regional R rate is at 0.8 (the highest in the UK and double the rate in London) and current infections in the North East are still over 10,000 (figure from Public Health England, 2<sup>nd</sup> June). Recent evidence published by the government's SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies) outlined that postponing such wider opening could possibly half the risk of the spread of infection, while an independent group of scientists, and some members from SAGE itself, have recently argued that the easing of lockdown measures (including plans for the wider reopening of schools) are happening too soon with an inevitable increase in risk to public health.

Not enough is yet known regarding the actual impact of the recent measures for relaxed lockdown rules, or indeed schools opening to more pupils, in terms of the number of people contracting Covid19, and more importantly the potential number of fatalities as a result of this.

The government roll out of its coronavirus testing, 'track and trace' strategy also continues to be heavily criticised as not yet being effective enough to protect public health.

Therefore, school will continue to ONLY accept children of key workers and those most vulnerable on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. However, it is planned that additional staffing capacity will be made available from 15<sup>th</sup> June in order to allow for more children from these two groups to attend school. This decision has been fully supported by the School Governing Body.

We are also reviewing home learning to ensure it is meeting the needs of all our families and children without adding any additional pressure – as well as continuing to provide emotional wellbeing and financial assistance to those families who require it. Everyone in school would like to thank all members of our school community for their continued engagement within home learning and in their willingness to seek additional support, if required.

Plans are also in place to carry out a whole school deep clean to disinfect and sanitise across the site before 15<sup>th</sup> June. Following this, and in addition to the normal daily cleaning schedule of Mr Shaun and Mrs Liddle, a weekly deep clean will be carried out each Wednesday. As advised within the information from 20<sup>th</sup> May, school will close to all children – except those from key worker and vulnerable families – each Wednesday to enable this deep clean to be carried out. On occasions, and due to additional cleaning requirements, including whole school fogging sanitisation, the school **may** need to close to all children on a 'Deep Clean Wednesday'. Parents/ carers will be made aware in advance of this so that they can organise alternative childcare. These deep cleans and fogging sanitisations will provide an additional level of reassurance to parents, children and staff that the school site has been effectively disinfected and sanitised.

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff, families and school community is our top priority. A further meeting will be held in school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June to review the provision and success of this increase in numbers, ongoing risk assessments and to discuss whether we can begin opening to children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

If outcomes on 17<sup>th</sup> June conclude that all risk assessment and strategy can be effectively implemented – and that it is safe to do so – the wider opening of school to Reception, Year 1 and year 6 children will proceed on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, as detailed below:

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June – School open for children of key workers and those most vulnerable**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June – School open for children of key workers and those most vulnerable (increased capacity from this date to allow for admission of more children from these two groups)**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - School open for children of key workers and those most vulnerable PLUS Year 6**

**Reviews and assessments, regarding the feasibility of proceeding to the next phase of wider reopening to include Reception and Year 1 pupils, will take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.**

Parents/ carers will be notified on the day of each assessment to inform them of the outcomes from the review and whether the next phase of wider reopening is going ahead, and on what date.

The structure of the school day, including planning for start and finish times, groupings, access arrangements and provision will remain the same as the information already provided to parents/ carers within the letter from 20<sup>th</sup> May.

On behalf of everyone in school, may I thank our entire school community for their ongoing support and patience during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D. Christie  
Headteacher

Mrs R. Wilkinson  
Deputy Head  
EYFS / Y1 teacher

Mrs D. Martin  
SENDCo  
Y1/ 2 Teacher

Mrs C. Lawes  
Chair of  
Governors

**Stanley Crook Primary School is committed to improving outcomes for all pupils**



SCHOOL  
MEMBER

