

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Dear Parents/Carers

**Phased Re-opening of Pilsley Primary will not be happening on the 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

Further to our earlier letters in May and the directive from Government to begin planning for a phased reopening of schools beyond the current childcare provision from 1<sup>st</sup> June, we have now received notice from the **Local Authority (Derbyshire County Council)** that **says the DFE guidance to schools lacks clarity** and therefore we have taken the decision, along with all primary schools in the Five Pits cluster, to delay the phased return plans until a later date.

Therefore, we will definitely **only be open on the 1<sup>st</sup> June for Key/Critical Worker childcare** whilst Derbyshire seeks further precision in government advice.

Clearly, as a staff team we had finalised our plans and were looking forward to seeing more children in school after the Spring Bank holiday. However this instruction comes as the Local Authority feels that a delay to reopening would **allow us all to have more certainty about the safety of our school community**.

We have also received an indication that Derbyshire are asking us to review all plans for the phased opening of schools with an initial focus on those of us who have chosen not to open nursery's first.

We also understand that the government may well be making announcements very soon with regard to the guidance around nursery pupils in schools. Our initial decision not to open nursery was based on this lack of clarity and support.

Therefore, please do not assume that the plan the school had in place for each year group will remain the same. We will be in touch as soon as we can and if we alter the proposed plan we will send out a new survey to gauge numbers. Clearly, a delay in opening may also lead to you changing your original decision as infection rates hopefully drop nationally.

We know that this may well affect many of your plans for returning to work and the frustration and difficulties this brings. You have our assurances that we will continue to make all our preparations, including the changes to our school environment and detailed risk assessments, so that when we get further clarity and precision in the guidance to begin our phased reopening, we will have minimised all potential risk factors.

We will continue to have our Key/Critical Workers' children in school. If you are a Critical Worker and your situation has changed and you now need childcare, please send an email to [headteacher@pilsley-pr.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilsley-pr.derbyshire.sch.uk) detailing your role, and the days and times you require childcare. We will review our numbers and get back to you if we can offer any support.

Once again, we need to say a huge thank you for all your support and patience. Yours efforts with home learning have been fantastic (now up to 20,000 pieces of work across the school)! Next week is a 'break week' from work but there will be some fun activities added to Seesaw including an NHS competition for KS2 if your children are interested.

We will be back in touch as soon as we have any further information for you.

Take Care and Stay Safe



Headteacher and the Pilsley Staff Team