

Dear Parents,

This morning we have received advice from the Local Authority to delay our wider reopening of the school from the 1st June to the **15th June** - this is in response to the SAGE report on 22nd May.

The Report states that there is, 'a consensus that evidence on the role of children in transmission of COVID-19 is unclear with a number of gaps in understanding'. It also says there is some evidence to suggest that children are as susceptible to COVID-19 as adults', but advised that is not conclusive.

After discussion with the Chair of Governors we acknowledge that although we have completed a thorough risk assessment and made adaptations in school to reduce the risk as much as possible within school, the best course of action for our school is to follow the Local Authority advice and delay our opening.

Looking at the scientific information from SAGE, a delay in Contact Tracing implementation, and infection rate data showing the North East as the highest in the country, they do not provide the clear higher level assurances that the Local Authority, school communities and parents have been seeking.

We hope you understand the difficult decision we have made however our ultimate priority is the safety of our whole community. We do understand that in complying with Local Authority advice there will be some difficulties posed to some families who were expecting an earlier opening.

We will continue to set online learning work, provide support for families as required and issue school meal vouchers for those who are entitled. If you need to contact school, please email p3183.admin@durhamlearning.net

Thank you once again for your understanding and continued support.

Yours faithfully,

S. Gibbins