



Hipsburn Primary School, Lesbury, ALNWICK, Northumberland. NE66 3PX

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Headteacher Mr Kevin Moloney

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Dear Parents,

I wrote to you on 16th June about the partial reopening of school and said I would contact you again as the picture became clearer.

The Department for Education (DfE) stated on 15th June that Primary schools would be given flexibility to invite more pupils back if - having invited back the children in Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 - they felt able and ready to do so within the existing guidance. Hipsburn has achieved the smooth return of the children in these four year groups on an almost full timetable.

The DfE has not moved on their position and has not mandated that schools open their doors to children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. Nor have they requested that schools reduce the time that Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 spend in school in order to enable the Year 2/3/4/5 children to return in some way.

Whilst the staff and governors at Hipsburn have been keen to offer a return to school for the Year 2/3/4/5 children before the summer holidays and have explored possibilities, the staffing levels and space available sadly cannot enable this and therefore only the mandated year groups will be in school until the summer break.

There have been reports in the media around summer schools and summer openings. However the DfE has not issued any guidance or mandate on these and so, in line with other schools in the Alnwick Partnership, Hipsburn will close to ALL children (including those of keyworkers) on Friday 17th July and, unless the guidance or situation changes, will reopen to ALL children on Thursday 3rd September at 8.45am.

During the six week closure teachers, staff and governors will be: working on assessing what stage children are at; planning for the children returning to school and targeting interventions to help children catch up; looking at the curriculum for next year and seeing how it may need to be adjusted; exploring the pastoral and social aspects that children will need after this extended period out of the classroom; home learning and keeping abreast of, and implementing, the latest guidance from DfE around the 'new normal' from September.

I appreciate that the past few months have been incredibly challenging for everyone and I would like to thank you for your patience and support. I would also like to thank the staff; I have continued to visit school throughout and have seen for myself their hard work, commitment and flexibility as they have offered teaching/work/support to those children both in school and at home, navigate and implement the ever-changing guidance and compile huge amounts of evidence/assessments in line with Northumberland County Council guidance.

School will keep in touch with you during the summer if and when new information becomes available that affects your children.

Yours sincerely,

Allison Wort, Chair of Governing Body

