



North Tyneside Council

Jacqui Old
Director of Children's and Adult Services

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Dear Parents,

We write to you as the government begins the process of recovery and the gradual easing of the lockdown measures imposed upon our families and communities. During this period, we have faced many challenges and difficulties, and for some of you this has meant dealing with the loss of loved ones. The Government's road map for recovery will be just as testing and will require us all to be equally resilient.

As part of the recovery plan, the Prime Minister set out the Government's ambition to begin the phased re-opening of schools to more pupils from 1st June 2020, and only if, conditions are right. Schools have remained open for vulnerable pupils and for the children of critical workers, and this is now being extended. In primary schools this prioritises children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. As well as some face to face teaching of pupils for secondary schools in Year 10 and Year 12. Headteachers in all our schools are busy with their planning for this.

Since the Government's intention to open schools was announced on 10th May, you will have heard many conflicting messages from media outlets. However, the overriding concern for the Mayor and her cabinet is the safety of our children, teachers and school staff in North Tyneside.

We appreciate that when schools feel it appropriate to re-open to more children, you will make your own decision, given your own circumstances, as to whether your child returns. We therefore want to offer you reassurance that we are committed to working with headteachers across the borough to ensure that risks are assessed thoroughly, and all sensible measures are in place to ensure that, when schools consider it right to begin a phased reopening, they are safe environments in which to return.

We will support our head teachers and governing bodies in the decisions which they take about when and how to begin that phased reopening for their school.

It is important to note that upon re-opening, not all schools will be able to make the same offer to parents. Schools are unique places and will have different staffing and premises considerations to make. Your child's school will let you know the arrangements for your child's return in due course. We would urge you to be patient as your headteacher finalises these plans.

In the meantime, we want to re-iterate our ongoing commitment to work with all schools across North Tyneside to provide the assurances you need for a safe and successful phased re-opening of schools.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Jacqui Old in black ink.

Jacqui Old
Director of Children's and Adult Services

Handwritten signature of P. G. Earley in black ink.

Cllr Peter Earley
**Cabinet Member for Children,
Young People and Learning**