



4th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

DELAPRE PRIMARY SCHOOL - RE-OPENING PLANS FOR YEAR 1

Over the past few weeks the school has had to make many difficult choices with often little and/or contradictory guidance from the Government. This has placed parents and schools in an incredibly difficult position.

Several members of staff at Delapre have spent a great deal of time, including most of the previous half term, trying to come up with a plan that works for us and our school, whilst keeping children and staff as safe as possible.

All schools were asked by the Government to extend the number of children who should be in school to include where possible:

- Keyworker children
- Vulnerable children
- Reception / Year 1 / Year 6

We then had to construct several alternative plans and then make choices, taking into consideration a range of information including guidance from Northampton Local Authority and a number of other Local Authorities. The range of information and guidance was, sadly, incredibly contradictory. We chose one of the plans based on all the guidance at the time, knowing that we would have to carefully assess the implementation of them.

At this point, we decided that Year 6 coming back would be potentially the best option and provide us with an opportunity to witness how further opening could be managed. The plan was to extend this to include Reception and Year 1 children over the coming weeks. Extending opening at Delapre Primary School has been implemented with caution, and everyone involved has diligently approached every step of this task with the safety of pupils and staff as their absolute priority.

Following the return of our Year 6 children, alongside our growing number of Key Worker children, whilst many points have been incredibly positive and we are really delighted to see some of our children return, it has left us with increasing reservations as to how we can safely accommodate the return of more children. Added to this is the fact that we could not have foreseen, based on looking at other local schools, just how many additional Keyworker places would be required. Simply put, in order for Delapre to remain open and comply with the Government's stance of Keyworker and vulnerable children remaining the priority, we cannot open to **all** of the suggested children i.e. Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.



We are fully aware now that, due to the layout of the school; the reduced staff we are operating with; the size of the groups coming back; the requirement for social distancing rules to be implemented properly and all measures to be put in to place to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19); **and** keep everyone safe, this will not work unless we change our approach for the time being. The frustration of this situation being that since we publicised our phased return plan to staff and parents, the Government's guidance changed to say that every school must look at their own school setting and do what works for them. Hence the reason for the changes now.

Therefore, with regret, we will not be able to welcome our Year 1 children back in to school as originally planned on 15th June. This situation will be reviewed internally as well as in line with any new Government guidance. We would still hope to admit the Year 1 children back before the end of the summer term, but at this stage, we do not know when. We will give you as much notice as we possibly can to inform you of our position on this.

Current Year 1 Keyworker children already attending can continue to attend school in the Keyworker groups.

As a school we have had to make this decision as quickly as possible, to provide you with as much notice as we could in this very difficult situation. This is a decision that has not been taken lightly.

Our main priority is the health and well-being of all those attending, staff and pupils alike. We hope you understand why we have had to make this difficult decision and will continue to support us.

We apologise for the inconvenience that we know this change will cause for many of you but would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation. If there was any other way of managing this, we would have done so.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Portrey', written in a cursive style.

H Portrey
Headteacher