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Dear Parents and Carers

Durham County Council advise schools not to re-open until at least June 15

This morning I received an email from Durham County Council advising all primary schools **not to begin** wider re-opening in the week beginning the 1st June; I am attaching their press release so you can see for yourselves why they have arrived at this position.

There are a number of reasons they express, including the inconclusive evidence around children catching and spreading the virus, the increased rate of infection in the North East at present compared to other regions in the UK and the Track and Trace system which they feel is not sufficiently embedded yet.

The governing body have read this advice and have reached the conclusion that **the school will delay wider re-opening until at least the week beginning 15th June**. They and I would have preferred the Council to have reached this position last week but we understand that these are unprecedented times and that the most important thing is to reach the right decision.

The school will continue to open for existing children of essential workers and for vulnerable children over the next two weeks but it does mean that staff will have a longer period to review and to put in place the re-opening plan you have all seen.

I wasn't expecting to write to you all today and I certainly wasn't expecting to advise you of a delay in re-opening – we are living through very uncertain times. The delay may change some of your minds about whether or not to send your children in so I shall write again next week giving you the opportunity to reconsider your answers to the questionnaire once you have had some time to read the new advice.

Enjoy the rest of half-term and I shall write to you all again next week.

Best wishes and look after each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr R Goffee'.

Mr R Goffee
Headteacher