

Education & Learning

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Private and Confidential

Parent or Carer

13 May 2020

Dear parent or carer

We know that you will have seen or heard the announcement that some children will be returning to school from the 1st June if it is safe to do so. On the **11th May** the Government also [published further detailed information for parents](#) about the planned re-opening.

Schools across the Devon County Council area are working closely with the Local Authority and other partners to support families during the COVID-19 pandemic and I wanted to let you know about the arrangements that will be made regarding schools opening for more children in Devon.

Special Schools will work with families of all students on a one to one basis to agree when it is safe for each pupil to return to school.

Primary schools, infant schools and nurseries are now reviewing the guidance the Government has provided and planning how they may be able to open to more year groups (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) if it is possible to do so after half term.

How and when Devon schools will be able to do this this will vary depending on their situation, however, the decisions they make will all be based around the same safety criteria risk assessments. I must let you know that some schools may not be able to open on the 1st June or they may open to some of the suggested year groups and not others. Some children may be asked to attend a different setting (for example year 6 children may be able to spend some time at the secondary school to help with transitions, or infant schools may need to ask some children to attend another nearby school.) I'd like you to be prepared for this as everything will depend on ensuring it is safe for more staff and children to attend the school and if so to what extent.

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There are some other important things I would like you to know. Your child's school will need to follow the guidance set out by the Government and this may mean that school days look a bit different. For example, to be as safe as possible your school will ask you not to come into the school and to carry on being two metres apart at the school gate. Your children will be in smaller classes that will not mix with other groups and may have different break times. Attendance, while encouraged, is voluntary in the sense that no action will be taken (such as a penalty notice) if you choose not to send your child.

When they are in a position to do so each school will provide information on their website and in newsletters so that parents will know exactly when the school will be able to once again offer a place for their children. You may also be invited to say whether you will be taking up a place if it is offered.

Secondary schools will not be open in the same way but they will be having face to face contact with Year 10 pupils (and Year 12 if they have sixth forms) to help them prepare for their exam's year.

Early years settings will also be increasing the number of children they can support and separate information will be provided for parents with children in this age group.

Of course, for many of you, your child may have been attending school for some time and they will still be able to continue to attend if they meet the criteria to do so.

Thank you for supporting your school to stay safe.



Dawn Stabb

Head of Education & Learning