

Mel Meggs

Strategic Director for Children's
Services
1st Floor
Civic Centre 3
Market Street
HUDDERSFIELD
HD1 2EY

Tel: 01484 221000

Email: mel.meggs@kirklees.gov.uk

www.kirklees.gov.uk

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Dear parent/carers

We hope you and your family are staying well at this challenging time.

We would like to update you on the local and national picture in relation to schools welcoming back more children.

As you may know, in line with the government guidance, many Kirklees primary schools have now started to bring back children in certain year groups (Nursery classes, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6). Every school is different and, with our support and advice, they are taking their own approaches.

Safety remains absolutely paramount in all decisions. We continue to work closely with our Kirklees schools so that they can open more widely, but we remain clear that schools should only do this when the time is right for their children, families and staff. Many schools have welcomed back more pupils, while others are working towards this goal.

Priority is still being given to vulnerable children and the children of key workers. We know that, in some cases, schools simply do not have enough space to have more pupils on site in the safest possible way. As you will appreciate, all schools are doing their very best for their local community.

This week, the government made a further announcement. It said that primary schools will not be expected to bring back pupils in the other year groups (Years 2, 3, 4 and 5) unless they are able to do so safely. This applies for the rest of the summer term and means that the government is giving schools flexibility to make their own decisions in the way that we, as a local authority, have been doing for several weeks.

We know that many families would like their child to return to school if possible. We can assure you that, with our support, Kirklees schools are doing everything they can to offer places to more children so that families have that choice.

We are grateful for the way our schools are giving tremendous support to children and young people, including those who are learning at home. Your school will continue contacting you directly about their own plans and their own approach.

Many schools have remained open throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and welcomed children into the classroom during both the Easter holidays and May half-term. Schools staff truly went above and beyond by supporting families in this way.

The government is now looking at possible plans for the summer holidays, which start next month. There is no clear detail at the moment, but an announcement is expected soon and we will update you when we can.

We will continue advising local schools with the best interests of pupils, staff and families at the heart of everything we do together. We can assure you that safety will always be our first concern, and public health colleagues are an integral part of our team supporting schools. Thank you for supporting your local school.

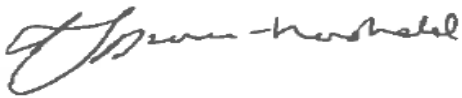
Yours sincerely



CLlr Carole Pattison, Cabinet member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities



Mel Meggs, Strategic Director for Children's Services



Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Director of Public Health