

29 May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

**Re: possible reopening of school to more pupils in June.**

You will be aware that advice and guidance is rapidly changing with regard to schools reopening. In the last few days a significant number of Local Authorities have advised that schools should not reopen until 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at the very earliest. Their guidance is based on the most recent findings of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE).

You will recall that I wrote to you on 20<sup>th</sup> May explaining that Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust schools of which St. Augustine's School is a member, were to open on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at the earliest, welcoming back year 6 and Reception children, in addition to children of key workers and vulnerable children.

Having considered the advice of Local Authorities in the North East in conjunction with the SAGE report and the high transmission rate regionally, Directors have made the very difficult decision that **Trust schools will not reopen for year 6 and Reception before 15th June 2020 at the earliest.** This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but gives due regard to health and safety, putting the welfare of children and staff above all other considerations. I know that this will disappoint some parents/carers but in these extremely challenging times it is important that we get reopening times right in order that they can be sustained in the long term.

We will continue to make available learning resources for all children via the school website and paper copies for work for those who do not have internet access. Please check with school via phone before arriving to collect paper copies of work.

St. Augustine's School will therefore remain closed for all but children of key workers and vulnerable children until at least 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. I will update you if and when there is further information available.

While the school remains closed the Trust and myself are developing an additional robust Covid 19 risk assessment that will provide confidence in the health and safety measures that will be in place when children return from 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs M McCollom'.

Mrs M McCollom  
Headteacher