

Headteacher: Mr W Smith
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs H Woodward



MUNDELLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
Mundella Place
Sheffield S8 8SJ
Telephone and Fax: (0114) 2551348
enquiries@mundella.sheffield.sch.uk
website: www.mundella.sheffield.sch.uk

29 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is a lot of information coming your way from school at the moment. The situation seems to change on an almost daily basis and I recognise that this is confusing and unhelpful.

This morning, at 10.00am, the following statement from Sheffield City Council was given to schools:

'Sheffield City Council understands that this is an extremely challenging time for all living in our city. Following last night's announcement, relating to the review of the current national lockdown arrangements, we have taken time to consider our position.

We stated previously that in order to support the increase of children in nurseries and school settings, as a Council we need to be confident of our position against the Government's 5 tests outlined on the 19th April 2020. A critical element to those tests included an effective national test and trace system being in place.

We have been advised by the Sheffield Director of Public Health, Greg Fell who has reviewed the local position and he does not feel assured that the recently announced 'Test and Trace' programme will be sufficiently well established and robust enough to be in place for 1st June. He has advised that the Test and Trace system should be in place and working effectively for 14 days before schools and nurseries begin increasing their numbers.

Whilst nationally the Government is requesting that schools and nurseries start to increase the number of pupils attending over the coming weeks, in light of the Sheffield Public Health advice **we do not yet feel assured** that it is the right time and are advising our schools and nurseries to delay increasing numbers until the **15th June 2020**.

We are acutely aware that many schools may have already put systems in place for increasing numbers of children prior to this date. However, our priority must always be ensuring the safety of our staff and the children is not compromised when the numbers are increased. All settings will continue to remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable children as they have been since the start of the national lock down.

For maintained schools, where the Council is the employer, we are instructing schools not to increase the number of children attending more widely. For all other schools, academies, and nurseries in Sheffield, we are strongly advising that they also delay their wider reopening to the 15th June.'

Mundella is a maintained school. This means that I have to follow any instruction given by the Council and I am therefore unable to admit any additional pupils - with the exception of Key Workers and Vulnerable children - until 15 June at the earliest.

I am sure that, as a result of this information, there will be widespread confusion, disappointment and possibly even anger amongst Mundella parents and children. I hope you appreciate that the situation is beyond my control. I think I also need to clearly state that any future plans are subject to change as a result of any communication received from the Council or the Government.

We will still write to Foundation Stage, Year One and Year Six parents next week, outlining our **PROVISIONAL** plans to admit these year groups.

I am attaching a letter from the Council and a document from the Director of Public Health.

As always, look after yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely,

William Smith