

Dear Parents

As the new strain of the Coronavirus crisis intensifies with transmission rates in schools being higher than in any other sector, it is with a heavy heart that I am writing to inform you that after meeting with staff this morning, Darley and Summerbridge Primary Schools will only be open for children of key workers and vulnerable children until further notice.

Contrary to DfE advice that all primary schools should open as normal, our schools will remain closed to all but those children previously mentioned in an attempt to reduce the transmission rate, reduce the risk to staff and parents and ensure that the NHS is not overwhelmed. This is difficult news to deliver but the decision has been made based on the scientific advice and the increasing daily case numbers which will only get higher once schools return. This decision has been made to keep you, your children and your children's teachers and support staff safe. I have informed the Local Authority and our federation governors of my decision who offer their full support.

Learning for all children will be done remotely and your child's class teacher will be in touch with you via email with their plans for your child this week.

If you are a key worker or your child has an EHCP or is classed as vulnerable then please contact me and let me know whether your child will need to attend school tomorrow as was the case in the spring/summer lockdown. They will require a packed lunch tomorrow and Wednesday, but after that, school may be able to provide a school lunch once I know how many children we are catering for.

Unlike in the spring/summer lockdown, both schools will be open to avoid unnecessary cross contamination of bubbles.

I am truly sorry that we have had to make this decision at this late stage and apologise profusely for the inconvenience and frustration that this news will cause.

Please contact me and let me know if your child will be in school tomorrow via my email below:

headteacher@darley.n-yorks.sch.uk

Once again, thank you for being understanding in this dreadful situation. We must do everything we can as a community to help each other and keep us safe from harm. As soon as transmission rates drop, case numbers decrease and/or vaccinations are available for school staff and it is safe to return, we will return to normal

Yours sincerely

Nick Coates