Cuthbert House
Stonebridge
Durham
DH1 3RY
Telephone: 01388 604515
Website: http://www.durhamdmat.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday's announcements have led to a general surge in requests for places in our Trust Schools. As you know our head teachers and staff have been working incredibly hard to keep our schools open to vulnerable children; key worker groups and now the 'priority year groups' (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6). As yet we have no detail/guidance from the Department of Education regarding new social distancing rules and/or if the bubble limits will be changed. Each of our schools is unique in its layout and every school has different levels of available staffing due to 'shielding' or children with specialist requirements.

Once we have received the updates from the Department for Education we will study them and meet with our Health and Safety team to determine if, or when, we will be able to admit more children this term. I do want to say thank you for the patience you have afforded us over the time. As a parent I fully appreciate the complexities of the current situation. Managing work, home learning and the overall effect of COVID is challenging for all of us. I can assure you we are desperate to have our schools back to full operation with teaching and learning back up to capacity as it was prior to the pandemic. However, we can only do this when we are all in agreement about how and when this can be done safely for all of our staff and children in line with the revised guidance.

I hope to update you further in the coming days.

Yours sincerely

Paul Rickeard
Chief Executive Officer
Durham Diocesan MAT