

15th May 2020.

Dear parent / carer,

Further to our letter earlier in the week we have now received additional guidance from the DfE and we are now able to share a little more information around our plans for opening to some children, hopefully on 1 June.

In addition to the children of key workers and those identified as vulnerable, the government have reinforced that the following groups should, if at all possible, return to school:

- Nursery
- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 6

All other year groups will remain at home and continue to be supported via home learning activities.

The schools within our Trust vary enormously and some schools may not be able to **safely** accommodate all of the above year groups. Decisions as to how many children can **safely** attend will be made on a school-by-school basis and will be informed by a robust system of risk assessments alongside guidance from the DfE, teaching unions and Public Health England. In the event of a school not being able to admit all of the above year groups, we have been instructed to prioritise the youngest children first – ie Nursery, then Reception, Y1 and ultimately Y6. **At the forefront of our planning remains the health, safety and well-being of children and staff.**

Across the Trusts, we are in regular contact with our school leaders who will plan for the re-opening of individual schools. Headteachers are currently identifying the number of available staff and contacting the parents of children in the above year groups to ask if they intend to send their children to school. The DfE encourage parents to send children to school but those who choose not to do so will not be subject to sanctions. Once these plans are developed they will be able to give you more details in relation to the arrangements in your child's school.

You may be aware that a number of trade unions do not support a return to school and are in conflict with the government. On a local level, we have a positive relationship with these unions and we hope they are able to resolve their differences. However, it is important to make you aware that this could affect our plans to re-open our schools.

Thank you for your continued patience, support and understanding at this critical time.

Kind regards



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CEO, HET



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