

12th May 2020

Ref: Reopening

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are keeping well at this time. The flexibility and positivity with which our pupils, your children, have adapted to this new format of education has been remarkable. I recognise how difficult it can be to balance home working with home learning, so I wish to pass on my thanks to you for playing a vital part in making this alternative system function.

The Prime Minister's announced on Sunday that the Government believes that it may be possible to re-open schools on June 1st to pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 subject to conditions set out in the overarching plan.

As a Trust we will be applying four principles in our decision making in relation to the Government guidance on the re-opening of schools.

Safety first: safety is our first and foremost priority; while we cannot reopen schools without risk, we must take all reasonable action to mitigate risks and prioritise the safety of all members of our communities.

Sustainable practices: we must be cognisant of the untold (and potentially unknown to us) additional strain that our current situation has placed on our community members and the impact that this may have. There is no indication of when a return to normal practice may come, and we must be prepared for what we put in place to last.

Prioritised curriculum: while all areas of the curriculum are important, it is essential that children do not lose the gains they have made during this academic year in reading, writing and mathematics or, worse, that gaps should be allowed to form. We must also consider the safety of children and staff in the delivery of the curriculum.

Raising standards: due to the significant loss of term-time, we must be even more meticulous about the quality of teaching that happens in our schools now and into the future.

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I would like to reassure you that, in line with our decision making principles, the health and safety of pupils and school staff is our foremost concern. Your child's Headteacher and teachers are working hard to ensure the appropriate measures are in place, in line with the Government guidance, to mitigate potential risks.

To aid our planning, a survey will be sent out from your child's school on Friday which will ask a few simple questions to identify whether you intend for your child to return to school once the school is open for that year group. I know that many of you will still be anxious about sending your child into school and both your Headteacher and I understand that. If you have any concerns that are not answered within the information your school sends out, please do contact them for clarity.

Further, more detailed information will follow this letter over the next two weeks with school specific guidance about re-opening. In the meantime, if you would like to understand more about the Government's approach then the link below will take you to the Parents and Carers guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Thank you for your understanding and patience in an incredibly anxious time.

Yours faithfully



Adrian Ball

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