



14th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

COVID 19 – PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE OPENING TO MORE CHILDREN

On Tuesday I wrote to you with an update on the guidance issued by the Department for Education. We are still waiting for more clarity on key issues and you may have seen that Trade Unions are asking the Government for greater reassurance about the safety of children and staff. However, we are working hard to find ways to begin to reopen for more children **whilst ensuring that everyone can be kept as safe as possible.**

In the Government's timescale of 1 June, this will not be "back to normal". Re-opening, when it happens, will need to balance the safety of everyone in school and the staff and space we have available to run effectively. There may well need to be different starting times for different year groups, for example, and it could mean that certain year groups and children attend on different days of the week. We also need to respond to the Government's policy that more children of key workers and those who are vulnerable should be in school as soon as possible.

As part of this planning, **we will be asking parents next week whether you wish to send your child / children back to school when it is re-opened. We will be sending a questionnaire and making phone calls to find out your thoughts. This will start with the year groups identified by the Government as being part of the first phase: nursery, reception, Year 1 and Year 6. For those attending provision, a place will remain available.**

We know that you will have concerns about safety. Prior to opening, we will send out details about the actions we have taken to reduce the risk to children and staff. This is so you can make your decisions based on the best information available. For those children not part of the first phase of reopening, home learning will continue. As a Trust, we will continue to develop our approach to make sure this is as accessible and good as possible.

If your child is in one of the identified year groups (nursery, reception, Year 1 and Year 6), or is already eligible for a place under current guidance, please look out for our questionnaires and phone calls next week. The situation remains very uncertain and everything we are doing is subject to change. However, we will continue to act in the best interests of your children and our staff.

Yours sincerely

Antony Hughes
CEO