

3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Full opening of Schools September 2020**

We hope you and your families are keeping well. It has been lovely to see more children in our schools, and we are genuinely delighted that we can welcome them all back in September 2020.

As you are aware, we received the Government guidance yesterday on the full re-opening of schools. It is a lengthy document and will require considerable, detailed planning to implement it effectively. I attach a link if you would like to read it in full: [Guidance for full opening of schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak).

Trustees and senior school leaders will be working closely together to produce robust plans that enable us to re-open for all year groups as safely as possible. Schools might not look the same and there will be many new systems and procedures we have to put in place to comply with the guidance. Your school leaders will keep you updated as the plans develop and ensure you are very clear about how children will be returning to school in September and the control measures we will have implemented to keep them safe. We cannot stop the spread of the virus completely but we will do our absolute best to keep all of our children and staff safe and well.

The Trust has already produced a curriculum for all year groups, which will be implemented form September; ‘**A Step in the Right Direction.’** It has a very strong focus on children’s emotional health and well-being, as well as ensuring the basic skills are developed effectively, enabling our children to quickly bridge any gaps in their learning. Children will cover all subjects across the term and we were pleased to see that our curriculum plans are in line with the Government guidance.

As you will be aware, there may still be ‘Local Lockdown’ in the weeks ahead or we may find ourselves in a position where we have to send a year group or class bubble home due to a case(s) of Covid-19. If this happens, we will follow the guidance and where necessary, seek advice from Public Health England. To avoid lost learning time, from September, each school will be using Google Classroom. This is a virtual learning platform that will enable us to provide home learning materials rapidly.

We will keep you informed of our plans and your Headteacher will be updating you regularly. We are sure you will appreciate that the planning for the full re-opening of our schools will be complex; we may not be able to answer your individual queries yet. Please allow your school leaders some time to develop their plans, which they will then share with you. We may not be able to provide you with all the detailed information until August, but we will be able to release general information before we break up for summer, later this month. You will be clear about what re-opening means for your child or children in terms of start dates, starting and finish times, control measures etc. During the summer holidays, please check the school website for any further updates.

We fully understand that the re-opening of schools may provide some anxiety and concerns for families and for the children themselves. Please be reassured that we are completely aware of this and will be looking to support each individual to the best of our abilities.

It will be amazing, albeit it slightly different, when our schools are full again with our/your most precious children. One of the saddest things during this very strange period of Lockdown, has been empty coat racks and silent playgrounds. Schools are usually vibrant places full of smiles and laughter. We have missed all of the children so much!

We want to sincerely thank you, our parents and carers, for all the support you have given each school and the Trust, since we started this journey on March 20th. No one could ever have imagined on January 1st what 2020 was going to turn out like! We hope you enjoy the summer months and look forward to some more sunshine.

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

Yvonne Brown and the Board of Trustees

