

11 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I hope that this communication finds you well and that the challenge Covid-19 is bringing you and your wider family is not too overbearing.

I would like to give you my heartfelt thanks for all of your understanding, help and support in these extraordinary times. To be suddenly asked to take on an active role in home educating your child/children, alongside trying to support your family's well-being, whilst continuing to work or working from home is a massive ask. I know this will have brought some challenges and some joy, but also times of stress and anxiety too.

You will have heard the Prime Minister's recent announcement, which touched on plans for schools to re-open with an initial focus on children currently in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 returning first. Whilst quite vague, we know that more information will be coming soon, outlining the expectations for schools, trusts and the local authority. We will continue to work with the local authority to ensure we deliver the expectations placed on us.

I know you will also be worried about your child's return to school and about their education too. We cannot forget the impact this experience will have had on all children. I would like to assure you that our Infant, Primary and Junior schools will be ready to open and that they will be safe. We understand that individual families will have had entirely different experiences of lock-down, initially requiring a more sensitive response in the classroom, focusing on well-being and security, leading to some academic learning.

We will share more information when we can, but please rest assured that staff teams in all of the Trust's schools are working so hard to ensure the best provision and support can be offered to every child. We are equally mindful of important transitions this coming September for children moving from Infant to Junior schools and those transitioning from Junior/Primary schools to High schools. We are making plans for these.

If we get to the point when further year groups can return to school then our schools will be ready.

These are such unprecedented times. We do understand how hard this is for all parents/carers so please do reach out to your child's school for help and support if you need it.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Thrower
CEO