



Wednesday, 20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID 19 – FURTHER GUIDANCE ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON 11TH MAY 2020

It continues to be a busy period of announcements from the government coupled with much media speculation. I felt it was important to get in touch again and provide you with a Transform update which I hope will go some way towards reassuring you about your school's position and the work we are busily doing behind the scenes to prepare for the possibility of reopening Transform schools at some point in the future.

It is important for me to reassure you that, whilst the government has an ambition of opening schools on 1st June, this ambition could change in light of future developments and scientific advice. In addition, it is also important for me to say that we will not be opening schools if we feel that it is unsafe or unwise to do so. We have a duty of care to children, staff and families. With so many variables at play, and such uncertainty about the weeks ahead, we would ask families to be patient. We obviously do not want to rush any decision making, we simply want to get it right.

I share with you the information below so that you are aware of our **current** thinking:



- Schools **cannot guarantee** to keep children socially distant. Whilst we have planned a 2m distant rule for everyone in school, we are realistic that some children will find this difficult.
- Schools are currently using the 2m rule to assess the **maximum number of children** schools can manage; this obviously varies according to the size and number of spaces in each school.



- Schools are working with individual members of staff to **assess availability of staff**.
- Assessing school capacity alongside available staff will give an indication of children numbers each school can accommodate. This will vary from school to school.



- Schools will communicate directly with you the **date they will open** as this may differ across the Trust.
- The first year group to be welcomed back to school (in addition to the current Key worker and vulnerable children) will be **Year 6**.
- We will invite other year groups back when we are satisfied that our **plans are robust and scalable**.



- **No parents will be allowed into the school building**. Please continue to use the school's preferred method of communication – class dojo, Facebook, etc for messaging.
- **Only one parent** will be allowed to bring a child for drop off / collection – 2m distancing will apply at all times.
- Individual schools will communicate drop-off and collection times as these will be staggered to suit each school and to ensure 2m distancing can continue to be observed.

I do understand that you cannot yet make a fully informed decision about whether to send your child back to school until you know the plans in full. Please be confident that we are working hard with the guidelines we have been given to implement the safest strategy possible in the circumstances. The survey you completed is helping the planning process, so thank you for taking the time to complete it. I will continue to communicate our plans as they emerge.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Meredith
CEO