



15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**COVID-19: update on reopening of schools**

I am writing to update you following my previous communication regarding the reopening of schools to certain year groups, which was announced by the government last Sunday.

Earlier this week I explained that we were awaiting further detail to help us to plan what a return to school might look like. Guidance documents have gradually been released during this week and our excellent Headteachers have begun the process of planning and risk assessing the implications for school reopening. This will be alongside maintaining both the current key worker and vulnerable pupil/student offer as well as the continued provision of distance learning for our children in all years.

I am sure you will appreciate that in order to ensure everyone's health and safety, planning for the return of our children is complex and something which we cannot take lightly nor will we rush.

You will be aware from the media that because of the challenges and difficulties involved, school reopening has now become subject to considerable national dialogue and dispute involving teaching/non teaching unions and the government.

At this stage, therefore, whilst we will continue to plan and risk assess, we need national resolution before we can progress our plans any further.

Our Trust leadership are keeping this situation under constant review but ultimately, we *must* get this right. The wellbeing of every member of our school communities is of fundamental importance as well as ensuring that we provide a high quality educational experience for the children.

I will be in touch again next week when we have further updates to share with you.

Wishing you and your families all the very best.

Yours faithfully,

Martyn Sibley  
Chief Education Officer