

Date: 15/05/2020
Ref: Pri



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you all in relation to the the government's announcements this week about the easing of lockdown restrictions with the possibility schools will be expanding their current restricted provision, by opening to more pupils.

Ever since schools closed on Monday 23rd March, we have been working on our plans to ensure that when we start to re-open, it will be within a safe environment for pupils and staff. On Monday 11th May the government provided schools with some further guidance about what re-opening might look like and some clarity around what is expected of us. From the 1st June, at the earliest, we may be able to welcome some additional pupils back part-time in smaller groups.

There is still however considerable uncertainty around what will actually happen, because the government's 'five tests' need to be met in order for any limited reopening of schools. This means for example, that infection rates still have to be falling. If these tests are not met school reopening will need to be delayed.

The government announcements did clarify that many pupils will not return to school this side of the summer holidays, because they have not been included in any of the national guidance regarding pupils returning to school. We do however want to try to meet with pupils at some time during this term so that they can collect work, meet teachers and generally check in with the schools. We will also, continue to set work and support all our pupils as we are now. Work will be updated frequently on our websites and through paper resources. Communication channels are available via email and if there any concerns about access to the work please continue to contact the school and we will continue to provide the necessary support.

In primary schools we will especially need to focus on Year 6 pupils and support them through their transition into secondary schools. We will also be working hard to support other year groups.

For the remainder of this month please be clear that nothing has changed, and children should stay at home unless their parents are classified as 'key workers' or they are deemed 'vulnerable'.

Therefore, if your child is presently attending school, they should continue to do so. The list of key workers as defined by the government, is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

For now, though, we need to recognise that the vast majority of learning, for the remainder of the school year, will still have to be conducted from home. We are very aware of how difficult this is,

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and we are very grateful for the efforts and sacrifices parents and carers are making and will continue to make. None of us would have chosen this for our children, and we can only make the best of it, together.

We do miss our pupils and are of course really looking forward to seeing them return to school, but we are also fully aware that some parents and staff will be anxious about how we will provide the safest possible environment for everyone who attends. I want to be clear that we are working carefully, thoroughly and with the best expert advice through the latest government guidance we have received. We will be making appropriate arrangements to ensure everything is ready and safe for their return and, when in any doubt, we will err on the side of caution.

When we have further clarity from the government and completed all our own risk assessments and pre-opening planning, I will be asking your child's school principal to contact you with the details of how they will organise re-opening and the key information you will need to know to help us do this as safely as possible. However, this will not happen until we believe all measures have been put in place, in accordance with government guidance, to ensure students and staff at in all our schools are as safe as they can be.

I have included links to the latest guidance below so you can see for yourself the actions we are working through to be as safe as possible on re-opening. I also include the latest advice that has been published for parents and carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Robson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Carolyn Robson
Chief Executive Officer