

9 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start this letter by thanking you for your patience as we work with school leaders to manage the wider re-opening of our schools, safely. I am now able to provide you with the details of the final phase of the wider reopening for the remainder of this academic year.

EYFS:

Having tested their risk assessments and adapted their EYFS learning environments, schools are now in a position to arrange for pupils from Reception to return to school. Our schools with nurseries will also be inviting pupils back into their nursery settings. The start date for EYFS children will be dependent on staff availability and adjustments schools might need to make in terms of classroom space, outdoor learning, lunch and play times. As with Years 1 and 6, children will be grouped in bubbles and will stay in those bubbles throughout their time in school. It is important to note that EYFS provision will be different across our schools and will depend on the size of school, the school site and staffing capacity. Staff are working exceptionally hard to ensure the health and safety of our children. It is, however, important to reiterate that there are many challenges around ensuring social distancing for such young children. Headteachers will shortly be writing to parents, who indicated in our survey that they wish their child(ren) to return to Reception or Nursery, providing further details.

Years 2, 3, 4 & 5:

You will see from today's Government announcements that the Department for Education has dropped its plans for all pupils to return to school before the summer break. The Government's ambition to expand provision to Years 2, 3, 4 or 5 was always going to be exceptionally difficult for primary schools to achieve due to the health and safety difficulties this would have presented for both staff and pupils and building limitations. Our risk assessments show that inviting additional year groups to return to school, beyond those stipulated by Government, would compromise the safety procedures we have implemented to protect pupils and staff. The Trust has had a high uptake of places for all priority groups, with over 100 classes being used to accommodate small groups or bubbles. This means that schools have limited capacity for additional year groups. Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will therefore not be invited to return to school and will continue with their home learning until the end of the academic year. All the above will be kept under continual review and will be informed by the schools' risk assessments as well as national and local guidance.

Thank you all, as ever, for your continued support both at school and at home.

Yours faithfully,

Paula Farrow

CEO