

4 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid 19 Emergency. Parent and Carer Update:

I hope that you are all keeping well and staying safe through these strange times. This letter is to provide you with an update on what has been happening since schools closed for most pupils on Friday 20th March.

Schools across the Trust remained partially opened, with a safe, skeleton staff, looking after the vulnerable children and children of critical Key Workers, where there is no care provision at home. We have now moved to the next phase of our provision by streamlining into five hubs. This change has enabled us to continue to provide the essential, safe, childcare needed during this difficult time. The Trust is also providing childcare to vulnerable children and identified children of critical NHS frontline staff during the Easter holiday period.

We hope that you have been receiving plenty of work to support your child/children with their home learning. I would like to say “thank you” to parents and carers for all that you have been doing to keep learning going during this time. These are tough times and there are different pressures that each family faces with younger children, work commitments and dealing with self-isolation, for example. During this period, we need to find workable solutions to the challenges we face, and we will seek to do this together with our families. We will continue to send work and support but know that there are many alternative ways to learn new skills. Please be assured that leaders across the Trust continue to work remotely to support the safety and welfare of others.

We remind parents and carers about the importance of monitoring, setting parent controls and keeping children safe online. We are aware that some parents and carers might be accessing additional online learning materials to support their child/children at home. Please ensure that these resources are from reputable organisations which can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. We have updated our NEST Safeguarding Policy to reflect the changes in work practices. This has now been uploaded to your school’s website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff for the courage and commitment they have shown in supporting of our children and families. There have been many NEST staff available, on rota, to organise, supervise and play with vulnerable children and children of critical Key Workers. For our children in school it is a new and different experience, with the social distancing measures for children and adults, hand washing and hygiene protocols. For our staff, in addition to childcare supervision there is the requirement for the continual cleaning of resources and learning areas to lessen the potential spread of the virus. Staff are also working hard to ensure that your children are provided with regular, home learning. As the summer term begins and lock down continues, we will continue to update you of any changes to our provision, following any changes to the Government guidance and lockdown directives.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support for our school communities. I wish you all a happy and healthy Easter, when it arrives.

Yours faithfully,

Paula Farrow

CEO