

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this academic year, I am now in a position to tell you about our current plans for September. We know that this year has been challenging for many of our school families and we would like to thank you all for your support and care during this time.

The Government has set out that all children should return to school in September and that attending school will be statutory (a legal requirement) once again. We are delighted that we will be able to welcome back all of our children and have been busy evaluating what has worked well in school and what we can build upon to ensure our plans support all children to return in a safe and happy way. The Government has now set out its guidance on fully opening schools and we have been working with colleagues across our Trust, writing Risk Assessments and planning steps for this. The welfare and safety of our children and school community is paramount in all that we do.

Parents, who have been able to send their child to school during this period have fed back on how supportive they've found school and how helpful staff have been in supporting their child's return to school in a settled way. The numbers of pupils returning in the year groups we have been able to open up to have continued to rise as parents have shared with each other how much their child has enjoyed being back.

However, we recognise that for some children, who have not been in school for quite some time, there may be mixed emotions, some very excited to return and others may feel anxious - these are all completely normal and understandable. I have attached our Risk Assessment and Key Information for starting school in September that outlines what we have in place to support the return to school for all pupils. We are absolutely dedicated to planning a smooth start for all in September to welcome all our children and families back

As part of our commitment to helping your child return to school, we are sharing all of the information with you about the measures that will be in place. I realise that this is a lot of information but it is key that everyone knows the plans so can all be working to ensure a smooth start of term and play their part in keeping our school community safe. Please read the attached information carefully and keep it somewhere safe so that you can return to it nearer the start of term in September.

I'd like to reassure you that school does and will continue to feel very familiar to the children. Our kind and dedicated staff are doing a lot of preparation and are confident in the new ways of working. This means that school will feel safe, relaxed and just like our school family, as it always did so while some things are new, lots are just the same!

We have kept the school open and very much enjoyed welcoming back more and more children each day. To prepare the school and staff fully for the September opening, **Thursday 3rd of September will be a non pupil day** (this is one of the Non Pupil Days moved from the two week half term in May/June). **School will open to all pupils from Friday, 4th September**, this will be a



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good opportunity to have a taster day where we can welcome everyone back and use our new systems; enabling children to be confident to return on Monday and ready to start the Autumn term with a smile!

With this, the health and safety of all remains our priority. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are and will be continuing to work hard ensuring school follows guidelines produced by Public Health England, the government and the local authority. We will also be in contact throughout the summer holidays if guidance is updated and if any of the proposed plans change.

We will keep you updated regularly next term too - I have become accustomed to writing to you with detailed information regularly and understand that there can be a lot to take in as it's a lot to write! Joking aside, I know how valuable lots of you find this information so that you know what we are doing to keep your child, our staff and our whole community safe.

Next Tuesday 21st July, on the final day of term, we'll be sharing a (very short!) but bright and cheerful end of term newsletter with you, sharing good news stories from across our school.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and kindness throughout this period of time. If you do have any questions, please do contact us.

*Mrs Edwards*

Mrs Edwards

Head of Academy