

12 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank each of you and your children for the positive and adaptable way in which you have approached such a dramatic change over the past seven weeks to the way your children learn. I know how difficult it can be to balance a new and often demanding routine at home with your own work responsibilities.

I would also like to acknowledge the resilience, flexibility and positive attitude shown by our teachers, support staff and administrators, who have worked hard to provide pupils with consistent access to learning during such challenging times. Like you, many of our staff members also have to balance the demands of work and home, and I am very proud of the professionalism they have shown throughout.

I am sure that you have been following the regular Government updates, which now include a conditional plan to begin the phased re-opening of schools from 1 June, starting with pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Six, with an ambition that all primary school children in England will spend a month in school before the summer holidays. The plan will remain under regular review and could be delayed beyond 1 June. At present, the Government is proposing that classes will hold no more than 15 children, break and lunch times will be staggered, as will the start and finish time of the school day.

Let me reassure you that in the short-term this means that nothing has changed: we will continue to support pupils through home learning, with ongoing in-school care provided for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. The health and safety of every child and member of school staff has always been our priority and that will also remain unchanged as we fine-tune our plans to reopen the school.

Much preparation has already been done by Venturers Trust alongside the Academy leadership team and teaching staff to make sure that we can reopen the school safely. We now have time to make sure that our plans are sufficiently robust to keep everyone safe when we begin the phased return to school. More details will be shared with parents in the coming days and weeks but I recognise that you will have many questions and so I have provided a short summary of our key aims below.

- Protect and support the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff and pupils.
- Organise school provision so that it supports families returning to daily life and work as soon as possible within the constraints of staff availability and social distancing guidelines, following up-to-date Government guidance.
- Provide an environment that is clean and safe at all times.
- Support pupils and staff to re-establish positive school routines and relationships.
- Support those who may have experienced difficulties or bereavement during the period of school closure.
- Understand and respond to each pupil's needs, both personal and academic, given the variation in circumstances for each individual.
- Successfully build on the curriculum work developed and delivered during the period of closure; communication between home and school; parental involvement; and the effective use of technology.

I will provide regular updates as we move closer to the phased reopening of your child's Academy which I hope will help to address some of the concerns that you may have about your child returning to school safely. Thank you again for your continued support, patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'W'.

David Watson  
Chief Executive Officer