

19th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will know from my last letter, all Venturers Trust schools are now preparing to reopen on 1st June to identified Year Groups, in line with Government guidance. Whilst this is part of the Government's conditional plan, which means that the date could be delayed, we must ensure that each of our academies is ready to open safely in just over two weeks for children in Reception, Year One and Year Six.

In order to do this effectively, we have made the difficult decision to close all Venturers Trust academies over the week of half term, 25th-29th May inclusive. This will allow us to thoroughly deep clean every school site, source and install appropriate safety equipment and develop bespoke timetables for each academy so that Government guidelines relating to maximum class sizes and minimum contact between individual classes can be adhered to.

The health and safety of every child and member of school staff remains our top priority as we prepare to move into this next phase. We are scrutinising the risk assessment for each individual academy to ensure that the new safety measures are of the highest standard to keep us all safe in school whilst causing minimal disruption to the routines that our young pupils are familiar with in order to reduce any anxiety that children might feel about returning to school after an extended period away.

Your children's teachers are really looking forward to seeing their pupils again and to being reunited in their class groups. We will be building on the remote learning activities that you have been doing at home to make sure that the transition back to 'normal' school life is smooth and straight forward, with an emphasis on wellbeing and consistency.

The Government has made it clear that parents will not be fined for choosing to keep their children at home from 1st June, but I want to reassure you that we have worked relentlessly to make sure that your children will be safe in school and we simply would not reopen the school if we had any concerns that we could not protect our pupils and staff.

Between now and half term, you will be able to continue accessing distance learning materials provided by your academy, and whilst additional learning resources will be signposted for optional use during half term, we understand that families may wish to take a well-earned break from home learning during the holiday period.

As soon as your child's new timetable has been finalised, your academy will share this with you. To keep parents safe at drop off and pick up, and to keep children exclusively within their class groups at lunch times and play times, the new school timetable will be staggered, but we will endeavour to make the new arrangements as straight forward as possible.

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Sincerely,



David Watson OBE
Chief Executive Officer