



26th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The Trust hopes that this letter finds you and your family well. We recognise that it has been a very difficult and challenging time for everyone and that many of you will have suffered emotionally, socially and economically during the pandemic.

We would first like to thank you for your commitment to supporting home learning over the last few months. It was wonderful to be able to welcome back some year groups in the summer term, but we recognise the huge disruption to the lives of our children that Covid-19 has brought.

September brings a fresh start. Children returning to school is now vital for their learning and wellbeing. The longer children are out of school, the greater will be the impact. The Government now expects all children to return to the classroom in September. We appreciate for some parents there will remain concerns about the virus and our schools are working hard to make learning environments and routines as safe as possible. You will receive information from your school about their arrangements.

In July, guidance was published about school attendance. In September all children are expected to attend school full time unless there are exceptional circumstances. You will already have received information about the start and end times for each year group. It is really important that you follow these times as they are included on the individual school risk assessments. It is also very important that you keep in contact with school if your child is unwell or if you are anxious about their return to school.

Our schools will follow the guidance from the NHS and Public Health England if your child or somebody in your family develops symptoms of Covid-19 or if a member of your household have been contacted through the NHS Test and Trace process. It is really important that we all follow this advice in order to keep our whole community safe

Over the next term our schools will be modifying their curriculum to ensure there are planned opportunities for children to catch up with their learning, however there is a commitment that the curriculum will remain broad and balanced. Subjects that may be the most affected are singing and PE where there are special requirements. We will also continue to provide an inclusive education for all children. Children will initially focus on settling back to school, re- establishing friendships, and learning behaviours. Teachers will be working with children to identify any gaps in their learning due to the time they have spent out of school. Further details on the catch up strategy will be shared by individual schools.

All schools in the autumn term have been asked to ensure they can put in place high quality home learning if individual families need to isolate, or schools or bubbles have to close on a temporary basis in the future.

In the Autumn Term schools will be sharing information with you on how homework will change, how home reading will be managed and information about PE lessons. Other changes to guidelines and how schools can operate with you will be shared when they become available.

Thank you again for your patience and cooperation. We look forward to working with you in the Autumn Term as we work towards a full opening of our schools in September.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Susan Bell
Chief Executive Officer

Mr Peter Chapman
Chair of Directors