



11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear parents and carers

Following the Government's decision to widen the opening of schools, the Department for Education has provided advice to school leaders on the steps they should take as they plan for the wider reopening.

These measures include:

- Carrying out a risk assessment before opening to more children - the assessment will directly address risks associated with coronavirus so that sensible measures can be put in place to minimise those risks for children and staff.
- Making sure that children and young people do not attend if they or a member of their household has symptoms of Coronavirus.
- Promoting regular hand washing for 20 seconds and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach.
- Cleaning more frequently to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, table tops, play equipment and toys.
- Minimising contact through smaller classes or group sizes and altering the environment as much as possible, such as changing the layout of classrooms.
- Reducing mixing between groups through timetable changes, such as staggered break and lunch times and by introducing staggered drop-off and collection times at different times.

You will be aware that all schools within the Trust have remained open since the wider lockdown and systems have operated to support the needs of our key workers and most vulnerable pupils. This has allowed us to ensure the relevant building compliance checks have taken place to allow safe return.

There has been significant work carried out in our schools in order to plan for reopening and managing risks. Therefore, in order to support the wider opening, we will also be providing additional measures to those listed above to further improve the safety of pupils, staff and visitors. These include:

- Provision of safety screens at all school reception points - to ensure that when visitors do need to come into the building that both staff and visitors remain safe.
- Additional levels of personal and protective equipment - for staff when undertaking key tasks in and around the school building

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- Temperature checking - by asking all staff and pupils to work with us through the undertaking of a temperature check. A handheld scanning thermometer will be used daily when staff and pupils enter the building. We hope that this will provide an additional safety measure, identifying anyone who is displaying a raised temperature that requires them to consider monitoring and self-isolating. We will explain to you and pupils how and why this is taking place to ensure that they feel safe about this further measure we are taking to protect and reduce risk.
- Specialist Health and Safety Provision - all schools have been supported by a specialist health and safety provider to inform planning and support the preparation of robust risk assessments
- First Aid - will continue to be provided at school and contact will be made with you should your child be displaying a temperature on entry to the building, or any other first aid need that requires contact/collecting your child

The measures listed above are additional steps to support us all in providing a safe environment both in school and at home.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for working with our schools during this most challenging time and supporting the additional steps we are taking to provide for reducing risks in the school environment.

Further details will be provided by each school as the wider reopening plan commences.

Yours faithfully

Gary Kelly

CEO