

SJT/pjr

22 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on the progress we have made for the wider opening of our schools, and the potential to invite more pupils into school before the end of term.

The wider opening to the priority year groups of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside the children of Critical Workers and vulnerable children began two weeks ago on the 8 June. This expansion continues to be carefully managed, following all of the guidelines issued by the Department for Education (DfE), to ensure the safety and well being of our pupils and staff. It has been a real pleasure to see more children and young people in our schools and both pupils and staff are very pleased to start and return to some form of normality.

The DfE has issued further guidance which enables schools that have capacity, both physical space and available staff, to invite more pupils to return. This is very welcome and your headteacher is now undertaking a risk assessment and planning process to determine whether any more pupils can return, and if so how many. Unfortunately, some of our schools are already full, with a large number of pupils having returned since the 8 June and with both classroom space and staff capacity fully used, due to the small class sizes in operation. Your headteacher will write to you in due course, to confirm whether the school has capacity and if so, the specific arrangements for inviting more children to return.

It is now clear that not all year groups will be able to return to school before the end of term, which is disappointing. We will of course continue to set work to be studied and completed at home and continue to make contact with you, via phone calls to check on the well being of your child and address any issues they may have with home learning.

I am increasingly hopeful that all pupils will be able to return to school in September and there has been an announcement today about additional 'catch up' funding to support pupils over the next academic year, which is very welcome. As we await further information from the DfE about provision from September, we are drafting plans for three possible scenarios;

- A full time return to school for all pupils, supported by a curriculum recovery plan and strategies to identify and address any gaps in learning
- A curriculum which supports any part time provision, where pupils may have two or three days in school each week, with the remainder working from home
- A future lockdown, in which we are able to deliver effective home learning, building on our current experience and your feedback

Thank you once again for your support during this very difficult period.

Yours sincerely



Simon Taylor
CEO