

26 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In my letter to you last week, I reported that we were in the process of completing risk assessments across all of our schools to support the formation of a plan that sets out how, as a Trust, we intend to reopen our academies. Throughout this planning process, we have used government guidance, medical advice and information provided by our school leaders to inform our decision making.

I appreciate the very challenging situation faced by parents regarding the decision of sending your child/children back to school. The Trust would have liked to have been able to report back to you our finalised plans sooner, but even as late as Sunday 24th May the government issued revised guidance, including new specifications for the physical space needed for Nursery and Reception children. This has necessitated changes to our risk assessment documents and, subsequently, plans for reintegration.

Our revised plan for return is as follows:

Return dates:

Year 6

Tuesday 2nd June 8.45am - 3.00pm

Reception

Monday 8th June 9.15am – 3.30pm

Please note: This date will be conditional on the experience gained from opening to Year 6 the previous week. A 'final' decision on this will be taken on Thursday 4th June.

Year 1

Monday 15th June 9.00am – 3.15pm

Please note: This date will be conditional on the experience gained from the previous two weeks. A 'final' decision on this will be taken on Thursday 11th June.

Our revised plan begins with Year 6. As the oldest children we know they will have a better understanding of the systems being put into place, are old enough to follow instructions responsibly and will help us all gain experience in this completely new way of working. The younger children will need more support and we will be able to concentrate on their needs and better manage their safe return through this phased approach.

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There are numerous reasons for the Trust taking the decision to stagger the start for children coming back to school. These include ensuring systems across all our schools are effective and not rushing children back before they are implemented safely. A phased return will also ensure we have the time to meet the requirements of constantly changing guidance and review the implantation of this guidance as we go along. Finally, we need the time to ensure your children are sympathetically reintroduced to a very different setting to what they left.

When this crisis is over, I want to be able to look any parent and staff member in the eye and say we did everything we could to keep everyone attending our academies safe. I understand how precious your children are and when they return to us I want to reassure you that we will have done everything we can to ensure the safest re-integration we can achieve. I do appreciate the challenge now faced by parents with the demands of work either in the home or having to return to the workplace and hope you understand the reasons for our cautious approach to re-opening.

I would like to take this opportunity to address parents who are in a vulnerable category and who may be nervous about sending your child back to school. If you do not feel this is safe, you will in no way be penalised for keeping your child at home. As a Trust we will do everything we can to ensure that your child continues to receive high quality home learning.

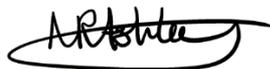
It is important to remember, that this partial reopening on Tuesday 2nd June will still be subject to meeting five tests laid out by the government:

- Making sure the NHS can cope
- A 'sustained and consistent' fall in the daily death rate
- Rates of infection decreasing to 'manageable levels'
- Ensuring the supply of tests and PPE can meet future demand
- Being confident any adjustments would not risk a second peak that would overwhelm the NHS

We are expecting confirmation from the Government on Thursday 28th May that schools will be able to partially reopen but, if there is any change to this plan, we will write to parents again on Friday 29th May.

Again, in these very challenging times, I would like to thank you for your support. Continue to take care and we look forward to seeing your children in school soon.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Ashley
CEO Elevate MAT

Miss Globe
Head of School