

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family and friends are well.

I am sure that you would want to join me in thanking all of our hard-working staff for what they are achieving in what continues to be very challenging times. Currently, with a maximum 'bubble' size of 15 children in a class, our teachers are teaching full time, planning two sets of lessons (for both online learning and in-school provision), contacting children out of school and constantly reviewing and adapting provision to meet changing school guidance from the DfE.

Across the Trust, I am pleased to announce that this week we have been able to welcome children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to all of our Academies. We are now able to compare our data with national figures which gives a picture of just how successful our Academies have been at reintegrating our children:

	National Data*	Elevate Academies
Open to at least one year group	67%	100%
% of Nursey, Rec, Y1 & Y6 attending school	33%	68%
Total school roll attending school including 'Key Worker' children	9%	37%

Year 2 - 5 Provision

While it has been lovely to see so many children back in school and getting back to some kind of normality, we are very aware of the children who have not been able to attend. I am pleased to announce that we are currently working with all of our headteachers across the Trust to be able to offer some on-site sessions for all Year 2-5 children before the end of the term. Further details of this will be shared with you by your child's headteacher.

Online Learning

Many thanks to all the parents who participated in our survey on online learning.

The survey showed lots of positive trends, including how well Academies have communicated with parents and ensured that learning has been provided. You have clearly appreciated the positive focus on the well-being of your child.

All of our Academies have worked at a pace to respond to the continual changes and new circumstances, supporting remote learning as effectively as possible whilst ensuring children and staff are protected and safe. Along the way, we have continually reviewed our approach to ensure that we do our best to support the education of all children.

Key findings:

It is clear from the survey that, with your help, much of what we have provided has worked really well. It has also helped us identify the following areas for improvement:

1. Introduction of live, online lessons to support your child's social and emotional well-being and to reassure them as we transition through to the end of the school year and into the new academic year.
2. Clarity on how staff feedback and inform children of the next stages in their learning journey.
3. Informing parents how their teacher is engaging their child and assessing the progress their child is making.

Summer School

A few weeks ago, the government appeared to be working on plans for 'summer school' arrangements to help pupils catch up on lost time in school. Their focus has now shifted to plans for additional support in the next academic year (and possibly beyond). As a result, we have now had clarification that there is no requirement or expectation for schools to provide summer schools. In order to prepare well for September and give all the staff a well-earned break, we have decided all Academies in the Trust will finish on Friday 17th July.

We will, however, be offering our school sites to appropriately-managed summer schemes and sports clubs free of charge and will be signposting all parents to summer schemes available in their local area.

September 2020

We were all pleased to hear the Secretary of State announce last week that schools will be open to all pupils for the new school year. We still await clarification as to what that return will look like, but DfE guidance has been promised in the next few weeks and will be key to our planning.

In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.

Kindest regards,



Nigel Ashley

CEO

Elevate MAT

*** Source - Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak – summary of returns to 11 June – DfE**