

9th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will all no doubt be aware, the Government announced last week that it is their intention for all children in all year groups to return to school in September. I fully appreciate that for some of you this will be a welcome announcement but for others, you may understandably remain concerned about what this will mean for your child. I therefore wanted to write to you to outline our plans and to make sure you have the information that you need to feel confident about sending your child to school in September.

We are all so looking forward to seeing your children back where they belong, in our schools. Schools are not just places of learning, but a vital source in children's lives for friendship, play, routine, socialisation and stability. Staff have missed your children and are really looking forward to welcoming them all back in school in September. Our expectation is that children are in school full time and attend in the same way as they did before the outbreak. Children need consistency, even more so after the changes and upheaval of the last four months. We very much appreciate your support as their parents and carers in ensuring that they know what is expected and that they are receiving all the benefits that school can provide.

I also fully understand that the transition back to school will not be easy for all children and some will be reluctant or anxious about returning to school full time. If you think this is likely to be the case for your child, please approach their teacher or relevant member of staff at school, ideally before the start of term in September, and explain your concerns with them. Our teachers will plan lots of opportunities for children to discuss any anxieties or concerns they may have as we support them to adjust back to the normal routine of school life. You might find the DfE's videos on returning to school helpful. These are available for secondary schools here: <https://youtu.be/foQuulWonl8> and primary schools here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiefaCf2fvY>. In addition, there is guidance specifically for parents and carers on what you need to know about early years providers and schools in the autumn term available here: [DfE guidance for parents](#)

In advance of opening, headteachers, staff and the trust central team will be working hard to ensure comprehensive risk assessments have been completed and that we follow government guidelines to make our schools as safe as they can possibly be. Your child's school will be in touch with you before the start of term in September with further information regarding specific arrangements you will need to be aware of including drop off/pickup and collection arrangements, timings for the school day, pupil groupings and expectations. Our schools will also provide you with more detailed information on arrangements for infection and transmission control and most importantly what to do if your child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus or if there is a confirmed case at the school. The guidance is clear that no children or adults should come into school if they are exhibiting symptoms. It is vital that parents and carers work closely together with the school on this and that we all adhere to the wider national guidelines as well as local requirements and school rules. I would like to thank you in advance for your support, cooperation and understanding with this. Please also make sure that your child's emergency contact details are up to date for 1 September 2020 by contacting your individual school.

Thank you again for all your support and we look forward to seeing your child in September. Stay well over the summer holidays, and best wishes to you and your loved ones.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Blundell' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil Blundell