

22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write further to my letter of 14 May 2020 to update you on the position regarding the potential wider opening of schools from the 1 June, a matter which has naturally attracted a great deal of press interest and speculation. We wanted, therefore to be as clear as we can be about what all of this means for your child and your school.

Firstly, in all the speculation, it is easy to lose track of what the Government has set out regarding school reopening, they have stated:

- The intention is to reopen primary schools at some point from June 1st. They have stressed that this will initially focus on Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.
- Schools may reopen to other children before the summer break, possibly four weeks from the end of term.
- At this stage, this is just an intention. A final decision regarding whether this is possible will be made on Thursday 28th May.
- Whatever happens childcare for key workers and vulnerable children will continue to be provided alongside the 'learning from home support' that is currently in place.

There is also a great deal of negotiation happening between Trade Unions, Ministers, Local Authorities, large Multi-Academy Trusts and Government Departments. We do not know what, if anything, will be concluded at the end of this process.

Ultimately, we cannot control or influence any of these discussions so we are focusing our plans on what is within our power and based upon the information we currently have.

Across all the schools at The Bath & Mendip Partnership Trust substantial planning has taken place to ensure that at the point when places are offered to a wider group of children, your child's school will provide the safest environment possible for pupils and staff. Much of the required preparation has already been completed due to the hard work of school staff, and in particular your Headteacher.

I am sure you will understand that there are many complexities to consider as we transition from schools providing remote learning for children in their homes, to one where teachers and pupils return to the classroom.

At The Bath & Mendip Partnership Trust we pride ourselves on working collaboratively. Headteachers, Governing Bodies and Trustees have together agreed upon a set of guiding principles that frame our approach to planning for extended opening.

- The safety of pupils and staff will remain at the forefront of our decision making.
- Our continued commitment to the furtherance of our pupils' academic, social and emotional development.
- A willingness to help and support all of our parents returning to work over the challenging weeks and months ahead.

Chief Executive Officer: Mr David Gregory BSc Hons, MEd, CBE

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Based on these principles, we have agreed a framework for the wider opening of our schools and I share this with you now so that we may move forward on this journey together.

- If the Government makes the decision that schools should open more widely from 1st June, we will plan for a widening of school provision from **Wednesday 3rd June**.
- In addition to the existing provision in place for children of key workers (please see below), schools will be open Monday through to Friday lunchtime. Deep cleaning of working areas will then take place at the end of each week. This will also provide time for teachers to review and plan for the forthcoming week.
- The existing provision for children of key workers and the most vulnerable pupils will remain unchanged. These children will be able to access childcare in school on a Friday afternoon where it is deemed in their best interest to do so and/or parents' work commitments require this.
- Headteachers have prepared 'bespoke' operational plans to help ensure the health and safety of their pupils and staff. When the Government's decision is announced on the 28th May, final adjustments to our bespoke plans will then be made. These will be based upon the individual school's capacity and the individual school's own risk assessment.
- Communication about arrangements within the plan will come directly to you from your child's school and will include practical information such as specific dates for welcoming Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils as well as different year groups within our two special schools.

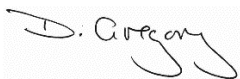
We understand that whilst we all wish to get back to some kind of 'normality', the wider opening of schools will cause anxiety for some families and that the new routines may be difficult for some children to adapt to. Staff across our schools will do their utmost to make the transition to the new arrangements as easy as possible, and will be guided by their deep-seated knowledge of your child. We will be following Government guidelines and advice to ensure that everything is in place to create a safe, engaging and age appropriate environment for your child.

Should the Government decide on 28th May to delay the wider opening of schools then home learning will continue to be provided, as will key worker child provision. Schools will continue to provide home learning for all year groups until such time as the decision is taken that it is secure for children in every year group to return to school.

I appreciate your understanding and support at this difficult time and will keep you updated of any further developments.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



David Gregory
CEO