



11 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Government Announcement 10th May

I hope you are safe and well?

As I said in my letter of 1st May, there has been considerable speculation over the last week,, especially in the media, about changes to lockdown and what this will mean for schools re-opening.

Following yesterday's announcements, we now know that should certain national criteria be met, we **may** now be working towards a return to school for specific groups of primary aged pupils to commence after the half-term holiday period.

Whilst we have been working and risk assessing towards this for quite some time, there are still a *significant* number of unknowns which remain to be processed/communicated by the Department for Education before we as a Trust can help your child's school form a return plan.

I am writing to you today with one vital message and that is *please be patient*, it is vital that we get this right. It will be several days until we are able to communicate a plan to you and we must focus on that planning.

As a consequence I would be grateful if you could refrain from sending in enquiries to your child's school until we write out again with some detail – we would aim to answer most of your queries in that correspondence. Many thanks for your assistance with this.

Free school meals update

I am sure you may have seen reports in the press about the national Free School Meal Voucher scheme and the difficulties it has been experiencing. As a Trust we felt we had to move to this scheme which is directly financed by the Department for Education.

Our experience, however, has been so poor and our need to get this right so strongly felt, that we have reverted to the scheme we previously and successfully used. This has the full financial backing of our Trust Board. We have written to our Local MP about the scheme and received a supportive reply. Apologies to those parents inconvenienced by the change.

We continue to be very grateful for all the efforts of our staff and for the continued wonderful support we have had from parents and carers.

Wishing you and your families all the very best.

Yours faithfully,

Martyn Sibley
Chief Education Officer

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