



20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to give a further update on the wider opening of the schools in the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust. As you will know the Government have expressed the hope that all schools will begin wider opening from the 1st June at the earliest for specified year groups (Y6, Y1, Reception and Nursery). It is our intention to comply with this guidance and **begin** wider opening from the week commencing **Monday 1st June**, as long as the Governments planned review of the 5 tests on **Thursday 28th May** states that it is still safe to do so.

In preparation for this wider opening, the Trust has undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment process of all schools and has put into place extensive measures to enable schools to be as safe as possible. This risk assessment covers cleaning, social distancing, infection control measures, learning and the management of specific cases such as intimate care and pupils with EHCPs. The risk assessment can be seen by all parents and carers on each individual school website. The risk assessment is designed to minimise the risks presented by this pandemic, it cannot eliminate risk. Parents and carers must review the information given to help them to decide whether their child will return to school.

In addition to the risk assessment, the Trust has produced detailed guidance for all staff on the specific aspects of each school day in order to maintain safety and to secure, as much as possible, social distancing. This too will be shared with you by individual schools. Alongside this, each school will send you a further letter that will detail for you what schools are able to do to support your child's safety, and equally, what schools are not able to do that perhaps would have been normal practice before the pandemic.

We hope that all of this information will support you in making your decision about whether your child will return to school when invited to do so.

In order to ensure that the measures taken are supported by school policies, the Trust has ratified modifications to the behaviour policy and the attendance policy to take into account the Governments guidelines. These documents are available to view on the school websites and are also attached to this letter.

In order to support families who choose not to return to school, or whose children are not in the year groups that are returning, the Trust has agreed a learning protocol to support all pupils to learn whether at home or at school. The Trust has agreed that the learning menus currently provided by schools for home learning will continue in the form already familiar to families. This will then be mirrored by the work undertaken in school. The learning protocol is on each school's website for you to read.

At present, we are working towards commencing the wider return week commencing 1st June. As the Government will not announce the outcome of their 5 tests until 28th May, we are not in a position to give any firm dates to families at this point. Once we have the final decision from Government we will meet on 1st June (the first day of term) to finalise opening, this means that schools will be closed for **all children** on 1st June. The parents of children who are key workers (this can now be just one parent who is a key worker) will be given a **proposed** start date before the end of this half term. Depending on the numbers of key worker children who require a place we are **working towards** giving all key worker children and those identified as vulnerable a place week commencing 1st June.

You will be aware that over the course of this week we have asked all families to state whether they require a key worker place moving forwards. Once we have the numbers required for these places, we will begin to invite pupils back into school. The following order will be followed.

1. Vulnerable pupils, pupils with EHCPs who have a suitable risk assessment in place, key worker children from all year groups.
2. Pupils in Y6
3. Pupils in Y1
4. Pupils in Reception
5. Pupils in Nursery

At each stage of the process, we will train pupils in how to socially distance throughout the school day. We will gradually build up to the full groups of 15 (13 in Nursery) ensuring that at each stage we are successful and safe before moving on to the next stage. We believe that this is the safest way to undertake this process for your children. As such, each group of children will be formulated in advance and parents will receive a start date for their child. We aim to bring children in as quickly as we can, but how quickly we can do this will be governed by safety. How many groups of pupils each school is able to invite back is subject to the staffing we are able to deploy across the school and the spaces we have available to use safely.

I know parents will be aware that teachers in England have an entitlement to planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA). This entitlement is still required and as a Trust we must provide this. We have looked at many ways of doing this but have found this challenging due to lower staff numbers and the need to create 'bubbles' of staff and 15 pupils who do not mix and cross contaminate each other. This means that we cannot use different staff to release each other from these groups. As such, in order to provide the PPA entitlement for teaching staff each week, the Trust Board has taken the decision to only offer places to non-key worker pupils from Monday to Friday lunchtime. This means that all pupils who are not the children of key workers will go home after they have had their lunch on Friday (1pm). Those pupils who are the children of key workers will be able to remain in school as provision has been planned to sustain this safely within their 'bubble'. We know and fully appreciate that this may present issues for some families so we must stress that this is a temporary measure to enable us to fulfil this entitlement. We hope, as the Government has stressed, that employers will be accommodating of the needs of parents in this respect.

As you will have heard on the news, we have been asked to keep children in a bubble and each bubble or group of children will not interact with each other at school. Lunchtimes will be staggered as will play times and lunch time. For this reason and at this stage we are not able to before or after school provision. However, we will review this for September.

When you have decided to take up the place offered to your child in school, we will share with you a revised version of the home school agreement that will take into account all of the measures we have put into place. This agreement is designed to support us to keep your child and all the other children in school safe. In the agreement you will be asked to ensure that you are fully contactable at all times during the school day so that should we need to make contact with you, we can. You and your child will be asked to complete this agreement prior to their agreed start date.

The Trust are committed to doing everything we can to ensure children are able to attend school before we break up for the summer term. However, we will proceed with caution following safety advice and Government guidance. We look forward to working with you as we start on our journey of the wider opening of schools.

Yours sincerely



John North
Chair of the Trust Board



Sue Vickerman
CEO