

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a restful half term. As you know, school has been open this week for staff training, as well as for the children of Key Workers. As planned, we have informed parents of **Year 6 children** that they will be able to return to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. We look forward to welcoming these children back and will be closely monitoring and reviewing how safely and successfully this goes. We aim to invite the next year group (Year 1) to return if we assess that:

- children are happy and learning
- our full risk assessment has been positively reviewed
- there is no significant rise in incidents of coronavirus across the school
- staffing and room capacity allows

This will be communicated to parents of Year 1 children in a letter on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Please remember that all these plans are conditional, and subject to change, should the national guidance be amended, or if the staff, governors and trustees are unsatisfied that all the necessary health and safety guidelines can properly be adhered to.

Children in school and at home will receive broadly the same offer. The work and learning opportunities that we publish will be the same work and learning opportunities that the children in school complete. You will appreciate that with so many staff working in school, our capacity to provide some of the additional learning and support outside of the published home learning work will diminish.

One issue that has caused concern this week is the increasing evidence showing that Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people are disproportionately likely to be impacted by COVID-19. The Office for National Statistics has shown that black men and women are nearly twice as likely to die from coronavirus than white men and women, after taking into account age and socio-demographic factors. Our school community and staff are mixed ethnically and as such we have numerous BAME staff, children and families. As a Trust it is our responsibility to protect our staff and we are consulting with BAME staff and coproducing risk assessments to ensure everyone is as safe as they can be. Additionally, we have a responsibility to you, our children and parents, to highlight this enhanced risk. The aim is not to scaremonger, rather it is to support you to make the decisions that is best for your family. Further details have been reported here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-52889106> with the full report being found here: [Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19](#). If you would like to discuss this issue or any concerns that you may have, please get in touch.

Following the government lifting some lockdown measures, we felt that it was worth summarising the new rules. As of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June:

- You can spend time outdoors, including private gardens and other outdoor spaces, in groups of up to six people from different households, following social distancing guidelines
- You should go to work if you cannot work from home and your business has not been required to close by law
- More shops are beginning to reopen, with a plan for more to do so later in the month
- Children in early years (age 0-5), reception, year 1 and year 6 can return to childcare or school in line with the arrangements made by their school
- You can be tested as part of the [test and trace programme](#), which will enable us to return to normal life as soon as possible, by helping to control transmission risks

You must not:

- Gather in groups of more than six people with people you do not live with
- Visit friends or family inside their home or any other indoor place
- Stay away from your own home overnight, except for in a limited set of circumstances, such as for work purposes

As we have said many times before, this is an ever-changing situation. Thank you for your continued support.

James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust

Jess Bruce – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School

Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School

Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School