



May 21st 2020

Dear Parent

Proposed re-opening of Primary Schools in June 2020

The five primary schools in our Trust have been jointly working on how best to further open up school provision for the 1st June, in line with Government guidance.

Throughout this crisis, our schools have remained open, providing support to the families of key workers and vulnerable pupils. We will continue this service and we are proud of doing our part to back up key workers dealing with the Covid19 pandemic.

The situation as regards Covid19, locally and nationally remains fluid. With this in mind, we have worked on plans to allow pupils to come to school whilst keeping the safety of our children and staff at the centre of our planning. We have used the Government's guidance and taken advice from Stockton Council.

From the week commencing 1 June 2020, the Trust is planning to welcome back children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**, alongside the existing priority groups (key worker and vulnerable children).

The Trust has decided not to reopen our nursery provision at this time, having carefully considered the Government guidance and the specific safety risks arising from Covid19, around the nurseries provided by our schools. It will continue to support those nursery children of key workers.

The partial return to school will not and cannot be 'school as usual'. The key concept behind the national guidance and our approach in each school is that of a self-contained group or 'bubble' of no more than 15 pupils and staff who will stay together for the school day. This allows us to do our best to keep social distancing and minimise risks of infection whilst at school. Each school has redesigned its classrooms, procedures and use of staff to make this work. We cannot however guarantee social distancing will be maintained and the Government agrees this is a major challenge in primary schools.

In the event of anyone within one of these 'bubbles' falling ill or displaying symptoms of Covid19, all pupils and staff in that bubble will need to self-isolate, to ensure the safety of all in our school.

From the 1st June, our teachers will be working in the classrooms with those children in the bubble. It will no longer therefore be possible to continue to deliver the current range of online learning. Teachers will still communicate with children who are not in school, but this will have to be on a more limited basis.

We would therefore like to direct parents to the **Oak National Academy**
<https://www.thenational.academy/>

It has been set up by teachers and is supported by the Government. It has online lessons in English, Maths, languages and art for each year group. We have also previously sent out information about a variety of websites. This will also supplement learning at home.

We know that many of our parents have significant concerns about the proposed return to school. We have set out how we intend to minimise the risks but it is for each family to make its own decision, on whether to send their children to school at this time. We will respect that decision.

Further details on timing and how these plans will work in each school, are set out in the accompanying letter from your own Headteacher. Please take some time to read the arrangements specific to your school.

Our staff have stepped up to face this unprecedented challenge to the well-being of our society, in a quiet and determined manner, getting on with their jobs and playing their part in this crisis. We are very proud of them all.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and pupils for all their support and kind words, for each other and to our staff, during this crisis. It is much appreciated. This aspect of a greater sense of community is one of the silver linings in these dark times.

Please stay safe.

Yours

Mrs Louise Spellman
Chief Executive

Ms Fran Johnson
Chair of the 1590 Trust