

12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

A Safe Environment – Safe Children and Families – A Safe Workforce

On Tuesday 9th June, the Secretary of State for Education clarified the position with regard to the full opening of primary schools for the month before the end of the summer term.

It has now been confirmed that pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will **not** return unless a school has the capacity to bring year groups back in a safe manner that meets the requirements of Government guidance.

We had initially hoped that there would be capacity for more children to return to our Trust schools. However, after conducting detailed risk assessments across all of our nine primary schools, it is clear that if we are to meet the Government's current 2 metre physical distancing requirements that we have neither the space or number of staff to make this possible. Therefore, unless Government guidance changes, we will **not** be able to welcome children from Years 2,3,4 and 5 back to school before September at the earliest.

We will continue to remain open to the children of essential workers and those where care is essential for safety and wellbeing, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. **As some Trust schools may get close to capacity soon, I would ask essential worker parents and parents of children recognised as needing to attend school for safety and wellbeing reasons to inform their school as soon as possible if they wish to secure their child's place for the rest of the term.**

All of our available staff are currently deployed within these priority year groups as required by the Government guidance. For the health and safety of the children and staff and to prevent the risk of any cross-contamination, the number of children in each group is much smaller than our usual class size and each group has been designated a specific space within the school building. These are the two overarching factors which limit our capacity to include more children over the coming weeks.

As a Trust, we fully appreciate how this news may be very disappointing and upsetting for families with children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 and we are extremely sorry that children in these year groups will not be back with us until the Autumn term.

Over the next week, we will be discussing how our schools can increase contact between teachers and children remaining at home to encourage and support them. We will, of course, continue to provide the home learning resources and materials that you have already been using and enjoying.

We will communicate with you immediately if Government strategy changes and when further planning guidance for September is made available to us.

Your own school will be in touch with you shortly regarding details of classes and teachers for September 2020 as well as sending your child's annual progress report.

As always, thank you for your support and understanding at this unprecedented moment in time.

Please can I finish by re-assuring you that everyone in the drb Ignite Trust remains absolutely committed to getting back to our core business of educating and caring for your children as quickly as possible but we must do this as safely as possible for the whole community.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Bowater', written in a cursive style.

Rob Bowater