

Monday 13th July

Dear Parents & Carers,

The re-opening of all of our trust schools to all pupils in September marks a very important step towards happier, more normal life, for all of our children and families. I am delighted to let you know that the Trust Board approved our re-opening plans at a meeting on Thursday 9th July. I would like to thank them for their careful and detailed work on this.

I would also like to thank you all in particular, for everything that you have done between March and the summer holiday. You have been working in partnership with us to support home learning and our schools through what has been a challenging time for all of us. You have been patient with us and acknowledged the complexities that we have been managing. Again, I am very grateful for that support.

We conducted very detailed **Risk Assessments** in all of our schools and have ensured that the very important **Public Health Guidance** has been followed and put in place. It is called a **System of Controls**, there are nine controls that are grouped into two areas; '**prevention**' and '**response to any infection.**' I have given more detail on the controls for you at the end of my letter, as an appendix.

Putting these controls in place means that your children will be coming back to a school environment where the risk of transmission is **substantially reduced**.

I thought it may be helpful to set out some data on the size of the virus. In mid-May, an estimated number of 3 in 1,000 people had the coronavirus. Latest estimates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) indicate that during the two weeks from 22nd June to 5th July 2020, an average of 14,000 people in England had the coronavirus. This equates to 0.03% of the population in England or **around 1 in 3,900 individuals**.

While we cannot yet know the impact of the easing of lockdown restrictions, it clearly suggests that the size of the virus is shrinking.

My priority throughout this pandemic has been to ensure that decisions have been made with your children's safety and wellbeing as the guiding consideration. Safety first, above all else.

As a father of four, I know and appreciate the feelings we can all have as parents & carers, if we don't feel comfortable about how safe our children are. My young children will be returning to our trust schools, with yours, in September. As a parent I feel completely confident and secure in the careful planning and arrangements that have been put in place. I have overseen them first hand and as the trust CEO have had the responsibility to detail them to the Board of Trustees for their approval. I will also continue to oversee the monitoring of these plans and making changes where we need to. This work will continue throughout the autumn term. We will continue to keep our schools as safe as possible. The system for doing this is very well established. My Deputy CEO, Mrs Pavey, has worked very closely with me on this.





Your Headteacher will have shared these detailed plans with you today in a letter, there is a lot to absorb, changes to start times and pick up points to name just two. If we all remember to be patient and follow the guidance we have been given, things will, I am sure, settle in quickly.

I will be visiting all schools in early September and look forward to seeing and speaking with you where possible.

Our school staff have been incredible during the pandemic, they accepted their **civic duty** to provide childcare and become front line workers overnight. They have worked flexibly and with care and attention to open our schools to wider year groups where possible. They have provided high quality home learning arrangements and very importantly secured support for families wherever possible.

In our trust we say that **'we gang up on the problem, not each other'** and I have seen that happening daily since March. There is much to celebrate in what has been a difficult time.

So thanks to staff, you as parents and carers, but most importantly to your children. They deserve the best, our endeavour is to ensure they get that.

Take care,



Chief Executive Officer

Appendix A: The Public Health System of Controls

The system of nine controls is the set of actions schools MUST take, grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection.'



<p>A. Prevention</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school 2) clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
<p>B. Response to any infection</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process 8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community 9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice