



*'An Academy to be Proud of'*

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to my previous letter and the recent updates on our website I would like to thank you personally for being so patient and understanding. As previously stated, we are taking our time to carefully digest the government's advice and guidance and in doing so, meticulously plan the phased return of our primary children to Armfield Academy. No doubt you will have seen some of the local and national press coverage on this issue and of the concerns raised by various groups, but also of the strong sense of support for children returning to schools in a phased and safe way.

Much detailed discussion has taken place in recent days and the position taken by the Armfield Academy and FCAT is that specific cohorts of children should begin the return to school in the week beginning June 8th 2020. The government's ambition of June 1st has proved to be too soon for us to make all the necessary arrangements. Parents and carers will be reassured that we are consulting widely and thoroughly on all the required Health and Safety requirements, combined with ensuring all appropriate risk assessments are firmly in place. I want to reassure you, our parents and carers that before our children enter the school premises, Armfield has received all the necessary equipment and all the required changes to the school/buildings have been undertaken, are working and above all we are absolutely ready to receive children.

Importantly, we do not feel at this stage that we can safely manage the return of nursery and reception age children. The social distancing arrangements, which you will fully appreciate, are extremely challenging and we require more time to devise effective approaches to these particular year groups.

**Therefore, in the week beginning June 8th 2020, Armfield Academy will re-open for Year 1 only:**

Our Year 1 children will be welcomed back to Armfield on **Tuesday 9th June 2020**. Monday will be handed over to essential staff training. In the following days, Year 1 children will be brought into school in small groups to be trained on social distancing and necessary hygiene practices and measures within the classroom and the wider school setting. Rest assured that I will share more specific information on the plan for reopening in the week beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

Our approach will be to work with your child/children in 'bubbles'. These will be defined groups that will not change and will have the same attached staff. This will help secure a COVID safe learning environment. Again, more details on all the above will follow in the week after half term.

It is also important to stress that the current provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers will continue as it has operated so far and is unaffected by these additional plans.

Finally, it is very important to know that we will continue with all the support for the children at home and not initially identified for the phased return. It is critically important that they continue to study and to learn in the home environment and we will continue to support this process fully. My thanks go to you for your continued support in these very difficult times

Mark Kilmurray  
Headteacher

