



ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust

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Executive Principal: Mrs S Moran

"Every child deserves to be the best they can be"

29th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I would like to update you about the work going on behind the scenes in our schools. As a Trust, we remain committed to ensuring that our children, families and staff are supported to the very best of our abilities.

The Trust has adopted and followed all of the specific and general guidance issued by the Government and the DfE over the last 3 weeks. Throughout the last 12 weeks we have remained open to Vulnerable children and to children of key workers. The Government has challenged schools to extend provision for nursery, reception and year 1 children in the infant schools and Y6 at the junior school. Whilst we agree that extending our provision to more children is very desirable we are determined to do so in the safest possible way.

Guaranteed safety in the current circumstances is beyond the control of Teachers, Schools, Leaders and the Trust or Trustees. However, we have undertaken rigorous risk assessments across our schools and have very detailed and thorough plans which are focused on a phased increase of pupil numbers from June 1st.

In line with Government guidance we are prioritising nursery in our infant schools and Year 6 in Grove as well as our key worker children. We are offering our children a range of full time and part time sessions from Monday to Thursday. Children will be in 'bubbles' of between 6 and 15 children and will remain in their bubbles throughout their time in schools. We have assigned a teacher and a teaching assistant to each 'bubble', to further strengthen our safety measures. Our schools are very different in terms of room sizes, layout, access to outdoors and numbers of entrances. This has been thoroughly considered as part of our risk assessments and will have an impact on the numbers of pupils we can accommodate. In our smaller schools if we can only take 6 children per class due to social distancing and room sizes this will mean there will only ever be enough space for a limited pupils.

Whilst we are opening our schools to more pupils we still need to plan and support home and online learning for a large number of children who will remain at home. This has meant that we have had to make some difficult decisions.

Every teacher has to legally have weekly non-teaching time to plan, prepare and assess, with more for our newly qualified teachers. During this time we are not allowed to put anyone else in their 'bubble'. Therefore, we have taken the difficult decision to close our schools on Fridays, to allow Teachers to have the time legally owed to them, plan for all the home learning that for those children still not attending school and will enable a thorough deep cleaned on a Friday. We realise that this decision will cause some inconvenience for parents and carers but believe it is the only way we can deliver the safest and most consistent provision possible.

Our plans remain under continuous review with staff, the leadership team and trustees. If there is an adverse change in the risks either at a local or national level, then the Trust will place the safety of children and staff foremost in considering whether to close the School.

Our Schools will be sharing detailed information with you over the next few days.

Best wishes and stay safe,

S. Moran

Mrs S Moran
Executive Principal