



ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust
Keelings Road, Northwood, Stoke on Trent, ST1 6QA
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Executive Principal: Mrs S Moran

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

15th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the survey that was sent out to you. We had 646 responses and that has provided us with a wealth of information to help us plan next steps.

We have met today with City Head teachers and the Local Authority and can clarify some key information;

- Each school will need to plan an individual approach depending on their buildings, numbers of critical key worker children, numbers of vulnerable children and staff available;
- Children will need to be prioritised and any return will need to be very gradual and closely monitored to measure impact on health;
- Schools will be closed for half term week beginning 25th May (except in a small minority of cases.)

For our schools within the Trust this means that;

1. If it is safe to do so, we will open our schools on Wednesday 3rd June for specific groups of children.
2. Our existing Critical Key Worker and Vulnerable children will take priority and from Wednesday 3rd June will attend their 'usual' school – **detailed information will be sent by June 1st.**
3. If it is safe to open to wider groups of children on Wednesday 3rd June then in line with Government advice the priority groups will be as follows;
 - HAMILTON ACADEMY – SOME NURSERY PUPILS
 - NORTHWOOD BROOM ACADEMY – SOME NURSERY PUPILS
 - GROVE ACADEMY – SOME YEAR 6 PUPILS
4. All pupils who are invited to attend will receive **detailed information by June 1st about expectations, times and sessions.** No other children should attend.

I have to be completely honest with you. We are following Government guidance regarding prioritising nursery children first and are risk assessing every possible way to try and plan a way to maintain social distancing. It is becoming increasingly clear that this will be very difficult and potentially impossible to achieve because they are little children who like to touch and cuddle and explore and be themselves. Our priority is their safety, the safety of our families and our staff.

The Government intention is to increase pupil numbers in Reception and Year 1 in the infants and Y6 in the Juniors. We were shocked that the Government have not prioritised Year 2, because of their transition to Junior school. However please be assured that behind the scenes we are planning lots of 'transition' activity to support your children the best way that we can.

Many parents/carers have requested more home learning resources as they say they believe their children are safer at home. In response, we are developing lots more online and paper learning activities to support you in ensuring your children's learning doesn't fall behind. This will start after half term. Our teachers are looking at what you send into us and are constantly reviewing and assessing so they can plan activities and teach to any gaps in learning.

We will keep you up to date as things develop, please bear with us as we receive advice and information from the government at the same time as you and we need to continue to risk assess to ensure our schools are as safe as they can possibly be. Once again, thank you for your supportive messages and kind wishes, it is much appreciated.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Mrs S Moran
Executive Principal

Mrs S Carrigan
Deputy Executive Principal and Principal of
Grove Academy

Mrs Y Glaister
Principal of Northwood and Hamilton Academy