

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we find ourselves in very difficult times. The Government would like us to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, year 1 and year 6 (alongside priority groups who have attended school during the lockdown), on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 at the earliest.

I can confirm that it is our aim to open our schools on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 despite our holiday schedule of reopening on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the staff for their dedication, commitment and flexibility in enabling this to be an option. It would also be an appropriate time for me to thank them for ensuring that our schools have remained open for priority groups throughout the period of lockdown, and for ensuring that children who have been working at home have had the best possible support.

The Senior Leadership Team have been working hard to plan, with their staff, how to reopen schools safely. We have followed Government guidance in order for us to prepare, and as much as we would all like life to return to normal, this simply is not going to happen if we are to keep children and staff safe. Class sizes will be severely reduced!

The services we offer will also be limited due to staffing constraints and the necessity to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 by ensuring that children and staff mix in a small group; and that we keep that small group away from other people and groups. It will therefore not possible to offer before and after school care at Richard Crosse, St. Mary's and The Howard.

In order to meet our contractual obligations of providing staff with planning and preparation time and to enable deep cleaning, the schools will close at 1pm on Fridays rather than the usual 3.30pm for the remainder of the Academic Year.

We need your help to assist us in our planning. Please would you complete the Google Form, accessed by this link, <https://forms.gle/thGLZ1e7GdyfcDyN8> by noon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May? We would like a response from **every family** and therefore would be grateful if you could help us in this matter. The form will indicate to us if it is your intention to send your children back to school.

Please be aware that should we be inundated with requests for places for children in years 2, 3, 4 & 5 from Key Workers, we will have to prioritise whom we can accept. Key Workers from Tier 1 will be given priority.

More information about the reopening of our schools will be communicated to you next week. All schools within the Trust will be closed week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> May for half term.

I know the situation we find ourselves in, is certainly far from ideal, and I appreciate that life is difficult for all of us. I am very sorry that we cannot offer all that we used to and I know that it will cause hardship for

many, and for this, I am incredibly sad! Please be assured that we are trying to do our very best to open whilst maintaining the safety of everyone within our family of schools.

Stay safe and God bless.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P J Lovern', written in a cursive style.

Mr P J Lovern  
Chief Executive Officer