

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Before I try and make sense of this week my first thought as always is that you are all safe and well. In these mad, crazy and scary times that is the most important thing.

It has been a strange week and each day brings a new challenge. We have been busy all week trying to make a plan but as the guidance changes daily we do not yet have complete clarity. As I write I await guidance from Trafford – when I know you will know.

As I try to make sense of this all I write to you as a parent. All my children came to this school and my daughter, Kate, is still here. I can plan logistics like a headteacher but I can also think and worry like a dad. What do I want for my daughter? There is so much to consider and so much advice to follow. It is virtually impossible to socially distance in a school, particularly with young children. How can we welcome back children in Reception but not hold their hands? How can we reassure a 4 year old child while asking them to stand on the spot as we 'console' them from 2 metres? We have measured our classrooms and many cannot accommodate more than 12. When we do return our children will not necessarily be in their classroom, with their usual teacher. They may not be with friends and they will have to remain in their 'bubble' of 10-12. The scenarios are breaking my heart as a dad, especially as our children will need love, reassurance and emotional support more than anything else when they return. This is virtually impossible as we lay out the rules to them. You have missed your friends desperately but do not go near them!

Please do not take this letter as a message that we do not want to return. The whole staff are desperate to welcome our children back to school but it has to be done safely and following the strict guidance. The children need school. They miss their friends, they miss their teachers. They miss the routine. They need the social interaction, the reassurance. We all do.

I am not an expert and I am not a scientist. Every time I listen to the radio or watch the news I hear a different message. As a dad which one do I believe?

Therefore please be patient as we continue to plan; however please do not just expect the doors to be open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June to the year groups stipulated by the PM. We will open to children but it will be gradual and maybe with certain groups first. We have to get back, but we have to be measured and safe. I will write next week with a more definite plan.

Next week the teachers and staff will once again call families. I know the school phone says 'private number' but please answer. Also please remember the school phone will always be answered (if not please leave a message) and we will always respond. In addition please remember when we send texts there is not the function to respond. Please ring or email.

We are here if you need us, we really are. We can help with more than you think – please call if you are struggling.

Stay safe

God Bless

Mark