

Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Children and Young People

I wanted to write for a final time on what is the penultimate day of the Summer term 2020, and to reflect on what an incredibly complex year we've come through together. There have been celebrations, frustrations, worries, and a feeling of the unknown as we have navigated the year and particularly the last 5 months together, and we all acknowledge that our ways of working and living have significantly changed in this period of lockdown. We have all found some new ways of working and communicating that will shape the future for our schools, communities and our families; and we have all grown a greater appreciation of the things that we have and continue to miss. We have learned a great deal about ourselves, our work, our schools and our communities and we don't want to lose sight of this so that we can continue to improve our work as a Trust and to work in partnership with you all.

When we break up tomorrow afternoon, I want you to do so safe in the knowledge that we will continue to keep you informed if anything changes over the summer break, and to assure you that we will continue to be working towards our aim of bringing all of our children and young people back in September. As I highlighted in my recent letters, we have set ourselves a timeline for the summer to ensure that everyone is kept informed and that we have everything needed in place ready for our September start. Your school will have provided you with an overview of their plan for September, and will ensure that you have a broad overview of what to expect from arrivals at school, through the overview curriculum plan, to pick-ups and any additional provision they may be able to offer.

Our published timeline will continue:

- By 17th July – Schools will have confirmed any plans for summer home-learning activities, and the curriculum outline for September return.
- 17th July – last day of term for all DBAT Schools.
- 20th July to 31st August (Summer Break) – we will be watching the situation carefully over the summer period and will update parents should there be any changes to Government guidance.
- 28th August – we will confirm our opening plans based on the guidance and Governmental direction.
- 1st – 4th September – this will be a mixture of INSET Days and transition groups planned by your school. Each school has planned these days based on their individual context and they will let you know the local arrangements (by 10th July 2020).
- Week commencing 7th September – Start of term fully, based on the confirmed opening plans or updated guidance.

Please look out for correspondence on 28th August which will confirm the opening plans for September in line with the most up-to-date guidance and information. We all hope that we will be able to continue with our 'Plan A' approach, but should anything change we will ensure that you are aware on 28th of what changes we will need to be making.

I appreciate that things will look different in September, and we ask your continued support as we work to be able to adapt, and to open up aspects of our provision that we are unable to open in the first weeks. Please rest assured that we are working to ensure that we can fully open all of our provision as soon as possible – a return to our wrap-around care, and our breakfast clubs may be slightly delayed in some schools, but we do intend to open them as soon as we assess it is safe to do so. We will be reviewing this in 2-weekly intervals so that there is only limited delay where this is necessary. Each school will provide you with clear guidance on all aspects of the school day, so that you can be sure in what to do, and reassured in our approaches. If you wish to discuss these further please contact your school leadership who will be happy to take you through their ways of working. Thank you.

As the lockdown is eased in different ways over the forthcoming weeks, and as life for us all continues to change and adapt to our current circumstances I hope that you will all be able to find some time and space to stop, and to have some 'summer holiday' time. Though we know that it will look different for us all it is my hope for everyone, and particularly for our children and young people, that the 'summer holiday' is a time when they can begin to return to a sense of some 'normality' and to recharge ready for a start in September and for what will undoubtedly be a year of surprises ahead of us.

Lastly, I wanted to thank you for your continued support for our schools and their communities, and for your tireless efforts in supporting the children and young people through this crisis. The role that you have played in providing learning, stability, consistency, love and support at home is not underestimated and has played a hugely significant role in working with us to bring our children and young people back into school in September. Thank you for all that you have done.

I hope that you do have a good summer holiday period, whatever it may look like, and that you all stay safe and well.

I look forward to meeting with you all over the next school year (when we're allowed to do so), and to having the chance to further our conversation about how we can work together for the best of our schools and the Trust.

I shall continue to hold you all in my thoughts and prayers.

With kind regards,

Jez Piper

CEO

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust