



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Children and Young People,

Following my letter last week, I said I would write again as we were anticipating updated Government guidance on the plans for the re-opening of schools in September. As yet we have not received an update to the guidance and have been advised that it is likely to be with us on Thursday or Friday this week following a Ministerial Statement later this week.

I will write as soon as we have received the guidance and we have planned our next steps as a Trust.

You will recall from my previous letter that we are planning on the basis of 3 scenarios: 1) All children and young people return in September to as near to 'normal' provision as possible; 2) All children and young people return in September, but subject to continued restrictions as advised; 3) A continuation of some lockdown and a restricted provision in school and at home.

It is our hope and aim that we will be able to bring all of the children back in September as is currently suggested, but in our planning we are ensuring that we remain mindful of the ever-changing situation around the pandemic – much of which has been seen this week in the response in Leicester to a rise in Covid-19 cases. We won't really know until the end of the summer which of our plans will be the reality of our return to school, and so our planning is focusing on the three possibilities but with a firm focus on our aim of having everyone back in September. I hope that this offers some reassurance.

I wanted to briefly set out a timeline for the end of this term and to the start of term in September so that you can see our intended approach.

- By 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Schools will have confirmed plans for the end of the summer term with parents.
- By 10<sup>th</sup> July – we will confirm our planned approaches for the return to school in September, and schools will confirm the planned phased opening in September.
- By 17<sup>th</sup> July – Schools will have confirmed any plans for summer home-learning activities, and the curriculum outline for September return.
- 17<sup>th</sup> July – last day of term for all DBAT Schools.
- 20<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 28<sup>th</sup> August – we will confirm our opening plans based on the guidance and Governmental direction.
- 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020).
- Week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> September – Start of term fully, based on the confirmed opening plans or updated guidance.

I hope that this helps to give you all some reassurance of how we plan to work, and what we'll be doing over the forthcoming weeks. I will write again once we have received the updated guidance.

With kind regards,

*Jez Piper*

CEO

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust