

13 May 2020

Planning for the return to schools

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are all well and that your sons and daughters are in good spirits. I would like to thank you all for your continuing support over the past months of lockdown. The work you have put into home learning is greatly appreciated by staff in our schools.

I am writing to update you on our response to recent Government announcements and briefings concerning a phased return to schools. The Prime Minister has announced that primary school children will be the first to return to school but that there should be some face to face provision for Years 10 and 12. The phased return will take place as part of step 2 of the Government's adjustments to social distancing measures. It will only start once step 1 has been successful and at the earliest on 1st June.

The key points from the announcements are:

- Nursery (where a school has one), reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children will return first.
- There is an ambition for all primary school children in England to spend a month back at school before the summer holidays.
- There is an ambition that pupils in secondary schools who will be sitting examinations next year 'will get some time with their teachers before the holidays'.

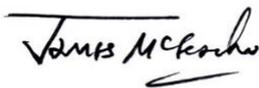
You can access the full guidance for parents on the phased return to school here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

I would like to reassure you that the health, safety and well-being of your sons and daughters, alongside that of our staff, will remain our priority. We will, of course, follow Government guidance, but will seek to do this in a way which minimises any risks to pupils and staff. As you can imagine, planning for the return across our schools will be a complicated project. We will keep you updated as we learn more and our planning is finalised. I anticipate being able to write to you next week with more details.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continuing understanding, patience and support during this challenging time. We continue to pray every day for everyone in our community, and that you and your families all stay safe and well and that anyone who is ill makes a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely



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Matt Shenton
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