

June 5th, 2020.

Re:- Review of Phased Opening for More Pupils

Dear Parents,

How are you and your family? I trust that you have all had a good week together. It has been lovely hearing the teachers on rota checking in with some of our families this week and also receiving feedback from other families via the school office. As always, we welcome all feedback from you so thank you for continuing to share this with us.

As promised, we have spent this week looking in depth at all the evidence regarding the risks of COVID 19 and the phased openings of schools to more children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. As I shared in my last letter, we were cautious not to open this week, following key information in the independent SAGE report that stated *'delaying a school opening by two weeks (to 15th June) approximately halves the risk that a child will be infected'*. The exposure rate reduces from 4.21% to 2.09%.'

As I have previously shared with you, developments are fast-moving and over the past week in particular, school leaders have been asked to base their decision on wider opening on local data. This approach was advocated in a report published by Public Health England called, *'Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19'*. The south west of England has the lowest risk rate across England and within that data, Torbay's is low. The importance to base any decision on the local context is also confirmed in the above-mentioned SAGE report. *'We believe that decisions on school opening should be guided by evidence that there are low levels of COVID-19 infections in the local community in which the school is situated and the ability to rapidly respond to new infections through a well-functioning, coordinated, local test, track and isolate strategy.'* This morning, I have been on a conference call with colleagues from Public Health England who are based in Torbay who have assured us that this system is now in place locally. They also shared that the confirmed number of cases within the bay is extremely low which is heartening to hear for the amazing community in which we live and work.

As always, the wellbeing and safety of our pupils, staff and families continues to be the most important consideration in any decision that we take. I have been reviewing our current position, together with the other Heads of Academy across our Trust and with our Trust Executive Team. The decision has then been agreed by our Board of Trustees and Chairs of Local Governance Committee and is that we are now in a position to open



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to more pupils from next Wednesday, 10th June. We remain open to children of critical workers, vulnerable children and those with EHCPs as we have done throughout and this will continue with that provision next week as normal from Monday 8th June onward.

So, on Monday and Tuesday next week, the children of critical workers, vulnerable children and those with EHCPs will continue coming to school as normal. There will be breakfast club provision only for Monday and Tuesday next week. **After Tuesday, we are no longer able to provide breakfast club provision for any of our pupils.**

Then, on Wednesday 10th June, we are pleased to inform you that we will be welcoming back children in some of the eligible year groups, initially those in Reception and Year 1.

Due to staffing levels and a lack of available teaching spaces, we are **unable** to invite Y6 pupils back at this current time. I will be writing to Y6 parents in the future to consider options for having our Y6 pupils back in some capacity, recognising how important their transition from their Ilsham family to their new secondary families is.

So in summary;

Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th June – open to children of critical workers, vulnerable children and those with an EHCP – breakfast club is available.

Wednesday 10th June onward – open to the children mentioned above, plus Reception and Y1 children.

If your child is currently in the critical worker group and is in Reception or Y1, they will, on Wednesday, move to their new group with their Reception and Y1 classmates.

As mentioned in a previous letter, the school will close every Friday at 12pm so that a deep clean can take place and staff are given time to plan and resource for the following week. This arrangement will begin on **Friday 12th June.**

Early next week, I will write to all eligible parents again with the fine details that you will need to know, such as drop off and collection times and points, information so that both you and your child can see what the school physically looks like before you return and much, much more – in short, a snapshot of all of the things we have been putting in place to ensure a happy and safe transition back into school.

For parents in Reception and Year 1, we will also be in contact with you on Monday to check whether you would like to take up your place or not.



We are so excited to welcome more of our amazing pupils back into school next week and we cannot wait to see you.

As ever, I thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Take care of yourselves and have a lovely weekend. Let's hope that the sun soon returns!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'D.A. Ryan'.

Dawn Ryan
Head of Academy