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Corvus Learning Trust

Update Letter

21st May 2020

It has only been a short while since we have last been in contact through our Trust Update Letter. However, the educational landscape is changing as we work hard to plan the expansion of our Trust schools' provision for our children, possibly from as early as 1st June 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed as to how we are planning, as a Trust, to meet the Government requests to increase the number of children in schools for specific year groups (Reception year, Years 1, 6, 10 and 12).

You will appreciate that our schools range from an infant school through to a large secondary school and those settings and age ranges place different demands on each school for the safe expansion of pupil numbers. As a Trust, we will support our individual schools through their own challenges and circumstances as they work towards extending their provision.

As I hope you are aware, the Headteachers, leadership teams and teaching staff are working tirelessly to develop and adopt new working practices with pupils which, I'm sure you can appreciate, is a complex task. We recognise that many teachers will be providing both face-to-face education for some children alongside the home learning and as a Trust, we will keep a close eye on the work load demands that this places on our teachers. We also recognise that not all staff are able to return to work, currently.

You will understand this will place considerable limitations on what any school is able to offer in the short term in the current restrictions. Therefore, we are encouraging our schools, in the first instance, to be cautious, yet do all they can to open, even on restricted numbers. This may mean that schools will need to prioritise the return of some year groups before others as per the guidance given. It is important that the schools build confidence for, not only the pupils and staff on site, but also our parents who will be trusting us to care for their children and keep them safe.

The year groups that are being encouraged to return, and our continued provision for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers, along with the restrictions required around class sizes, will put enormous pressure on our individual school accommodation and staff. With this in mind, we would ask for your patience and understanding as we seek to provide and build the safest and best educational offer for our pupils across these next few weeks, running up to the end of the academic year.

Schools are still awaiting further advice and guidance as we move closer to the proposed opening date of 1st June 2020, so each school will be in contact with you directly to inform you of their return to school plan and how that affects you and your child(ren).

As we complete our ninth week of lockdown, I do hope you and your family are safe and well.

Warmest regards

Bob Elsey
CEO

Steve James
Chair of Trustees

