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Academy Opening for More Children 2nd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the Government have stated that schools need to start bringing more children back into school from Monday 1st June. The Government will make the final decision on whether to open schools more widely when it reviews the latest science, including transmission rates, on 28th May.

The Headteachers from all of our four primary schools across the Trust have worked together to plan how best to do this and have put the health and safety of all our children and staff at the centre of our discussions.

In agreeing the plan, we are closely following all DfE guidelines and national safety guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/opening-schools-for-more-children-and-young-people-initial-planning-framework-for-schools-in-england>

- ❖ As leaders, we are responsible for making the right decisions for our schools
- ❖ We want to get children back into school because we know it is not only the best place for them to learn, but it is also better for their well-being in general
- ❖ We want to support parents to be able to return to work following what, for many in our community, will have been a stressful time financially
- ❖ We know that children at the very beginning of their school career make great strides in their learning and that they are most likely to experience a more detrimental impact to their learning during this time spent out of education

However, by bringing all the year groups back together on the same day we would be bringing hundreds of families onto the school premises at the same time. Since we do not feel this is a safe and sensible thing to do, we have agreed a phased re-opening, which allows us to increase the number of children in school in a controlled way, giving ourselves the time to monitor our ability to manage all the Health and Safety requirements before increasing the number of children.

Following a thorough risk assessment on returning nursery pupils, it was decided that, at this point in time, we would not be able to put sufficient arrangements in place to ensure the safety of our nursery pupils and staff. We will continue to review the situation for nursery age pupils and keep you informed of any changes made to their return to school date.



The table below shows our planned approach for a phased return to school for Reception, Y1 and Y2. Children will be expected to return to school on a full time basis. However, school opening and pick up times will be staggered.

Week beginning	Year Groups		
Week 1 Monday 1 st June	The Hub is open for children of key workers only.		
Week 1 Tuesday 2 nd June	Year 1 only		
Week 2 Monday 8 th June	Year 1	Reception	Year 6
Week 3 Monday 15 th June	Year 1	Reception	Year 6
Week 4-8 Monday 22 nd June till 21 st July	Year 1	Reception	Year 6

What this means for your child?

- If your child is in **year 1**, they should come to school from **Tuesday 2nd June**.
- If your child is in **Reception and Year 6**, they should come to school from **Monday 8th June**.
- If your child is in years **N, 2, 3, 4 or 5**, they should **remain at home** until further recommendations from the Government. Home learning will continue for your children.

Safety Measures

The school takes the safety of your children and the safety of our staff very seriously. Over the past few weeks we have all been working very hard to carry out detailed risk assessments and put in place all possible measures to ensure everyone's safe return to school and school based learning.

In school we have planned and prepared the following:

In the Classroom

- Reduce class sizes to a maximum of 15 pupils to ensure social distancing can take place. This may mean that your child is not taught by their usual class teacher or teaching assistant.
- Each new class will be seen as a "protective bubble" and will not mix with any other pupils or staff in the school.
- There will not be the normal lunchtime break. Each class will have breaks throughout the day with the children and staff in their "bubble" and there will be many outdoor learning opportunities.
- Within Y1 and Y6 children will be sat in their own seat and be given their own equipment to use.
- Reception children will work in mini bubbles within the class and will play/learn with only a few children at any one time. All Reception equipment will be removed and disinfected after use.
- All classroom equipment used will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day.
- Each class has their own supply of disinfectant and all surface will be cleaned throughout the day.

Movement Around School

- Movement around school will be limited and classes/bubbles will be timetabled to ensure only one bubble accesses outdoor space at any one time.
- Each bubble will be allocated an outdoor learning space and encouraged to use this for both play and outdoor learning.
- All communal areas such as corridors have been adapted to show the 2-metre rule.

Lunchtime



- Each bubble will have an allocated outdoor play time. This will be supervised to ensure children stay apart and play safely.
- Children who select a school lunch will be provided with a packed lunch. This will be delivered to their classroom.
- All lunches will be eaten at the child's individual desk or space in the classroom.

In order for us to ensure social distancing is effective in school and around school we need to work in partnership with you and we ask that you follow our expectations for drop off, pick up and your travel arrangements to and from school.

Drop Off

- The school day will be from 8:30 to 3:00pm
- The school gates will be open from 8:15 to 8:40 for drop off.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be standing on each gate to support with social distancing and direct your child to their classroom.
- Only one parent should drop their child off at school – please leave siblings at home wherever possible
- parents walking to school must respect social distancing and stand 2 metres apart. Some marking around school will support with this.
- On your travel to school you **MUST NOT** meet up with other families.
- You must bring your own child and stay 2 metres apart.
- You will be asked to drop off your child at any gate and not to enter the playground. Staff will direct your children into the building.

Pick Up

- Only one parent should collect their child from school – please leave siblings at home wherever possible
- Please respect social distancing and be prepared to wait until you are asked to enter the playground.
- All parents will collect their children from the usual playground unless otherwise advised. Please stand by the classroom door, taking into consideration the 2 metre marks.
- Your child will be called and you will exit through the normal gate.

On our school website you can find some questions you may have and the answers to them <https://www.chat-edu.org.uk/news/994> . There is also more information to be found following this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

If you have any additional questions, please contact the school office or email info@chat-edu.org.uk and we will try and answer your query.

Clearly this a very difficult time for everyone and you will be wrestling with the decision as to whether you send your child back to school or to continue with home learning. I hope that this letter has reassured you that the school is taking all possible measures to ensure the school is as safe as possible for the children and staff to return in June. **Please note that attendance is not compulsory and the government says parents will not be fined if you chose not to send your child to school. Home learning will continue to be provided by your child's teacher even if that year group has been invited back into school.**



Key Worker

If you are a key worker and your child is not in YR, Y1 or Y6 they will still be able to attend school. Each primary school will be open for key worker children and your child should attend their own school setting if

you require it. Children will be placed in a key worker bubble and will be allocated a teacher and teaching assistant.

If you chose not to send your child back to school, you must continue with the home learning that will be provided through DB Primary. If you change your mind and want your child to come back at a later point you will need to inform the school office. **Please be aware that your child will not start immediately as the school will need to make arrangements for their safe re-entry into school.**

We have really missed our children and our wider family and are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Kind Regards

Matt Clifford
Headteacher

