

14 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government proposal for a phased return to schools was briefly outlined in an announcement on Sunday 10 May 2020. Since then schools and colleges have received some updated guidance around these plans, with more detail to follow in the coming days. Tandridge Learning Trust is working closely with our Headteachers to ensure that we provide clear and consistent communication regarding this proposed return across all of our schools. We think it is important to emphasise that we are currently in the **planning stage** for any possible phased return after 1<sup>st</sup> June and that safety for your children and our staff is our **first priority**.

We have safely managed the small numbers of pupils in our schools who have been prioritised throughout the lockdown period, moving to increase these numbers is a big next step. The Government have said that they will continue to monitor the data, including the alert level at the time, before we move to a phased return for specific year groups. Government guidance documents state that it is possible **the dates set out will be delayed if conditions are not met**, this includes the five tests referred to previously for easing restrictions:

1. Protect the NHS's ability to cope. We must be confident that we are **able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment** right across the UK.
2. See a **sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates** from COVID-19 so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak.
3. Reliable data from SAGE showing that **the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels** across the board.
4. Be confident that **the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand**, with supply able to meet future demand.
5. Be confident that **any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections** that overwhelms the NHS.

Our detailed and careful planning will include looking at each school individually to identify any limitations or particular obstacles in terms of their ability to manage social distancing, staffing ratios, safeguarding, cleaning and catering. We have to ensure detailed risk assessments are carried out and all guidance can be practically managed. We recognise that many of you feel worried about sending your children back to school so we will ask you to complete a survey nearer the time to address your concerns and to support our planning.

We will need careful consideration of pupil and staffing needs, all health and safety requirements and appropriate infection control measures. As you can appreciate this will take some time and may mean different options will need to be implemented in some of our schools. At this stage, our expectation is that we will move away from the 'hub school' offer we have operated whilst numbers have been very low, to every school being open again to some extent for the year groups identified. Currently the Government have stated this should be Nursery, Reception classes, Year 1 and Year 6 for Primary Schools. They have also stated that Secondary Schools and Colleges should plan to offer some face-to-face support for Y10 and Y12.

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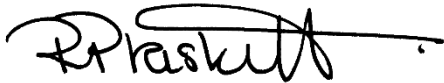
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We will keep you updated as our plans progress alongside the Government guidance we receive. As soon as we know more, we will share this with you. Please be assured of our absolute commitment to the safety of our families and our staff at this time. Our planning is important and necessary, even if the date does have to change or a further phased return is proposed in the approach to June. As we have witnessed throughout this pandemic, a lot can change in a very short time.

May I thank you for your ongoing support and understanding throughout this crisis.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Plaskitt', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rebecca Plaskitt  
**Chief Executive Officer**