

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

### **Our plan for the safe reopening of Trust schools to additional pupils**

Next Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May, following a meeting of SAGE (the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies), which provides scientific and technical advice to support Government decision makers during emergencies, we are expecting the Prime Minister to make a statement about whether the Government's five key tests for opening up the current lockdown have been met.

It is likely that this announcement will be received by schools at the same time as the rest of the country and it is possible that it will include confirmation that schools should proceed to reopening in the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June. It could however, include details of changes to guidance for schools' reopening.

The three day gap, between the announcement and the 1<sup>st</sup> June, which includes a week-end, does not give Headteachers much time to finalise their plans or for the Trust Board to approve them.

Therefore Dales' schools will start their process of reopening to additional pupils from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Our plan**

As you are aware, Dales' Headteachers and their staff have been working hard to put in place plans to allow their schools to start to open in early June. These plans will ensure we are well prepared for our pupils to return in larger numbers and importantly, for them to be able to do so safely.

For Primary schools, Government has asked us to consider opening to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 dependent on our capacity to do so safely. For Secondary schools, Government has asked us to consider some face to face education for Year 10 students.

Schools have been asked to prioritise places for the children of critical workers and children deemed to be vulnerable and we will remain open to these groups now and when schools reopen.

### **Our timeline**

1. **Up until the 28<sup>th</sup> May** – Trust schools will continue to develop their detailed plans for safe and sustainable reopening.
2. **28<sup>th</sup> May** – A Government announcement is expected on whether or not England has met all five safety tests and confirm whether schools should continue towards reopening to additional pupils from the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June.
3. **Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June** – the Dales Trust Board will confirm that all schools have met the tests set out by the Trust for the safe and sustainable reopening of schools to additional pupils, scrutinising school plans and risk assessments.

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4. If both the Government and Trust Board confirm all the necessary tests and checks have been met, schools will start to reopen to pupils in some year groups from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June according to the plan devised by your child(ren)'s Headteacher, which will be communicated separately.
5. All schools will continue to provide places at all times (Monday-Friday) for children of critical workers and those deemed to be vulnerable.

Our Trust schools are very different from each other and consequently the plans that Headteachers have devised for their reopening will vary as they have to take into account the unique circumstances of each school, for example, the building design, classroom capacity and staff availability. Plans have been drawn up using Government and Trust guidance and include a thorough risk assessment, each one will be bespoke to a particular school with a specific focus on safety.

We are looking forward to welcoming back into school more pupils and staff but as we have stated in the past, we are committed to doing so only when we are confident that it is as safe as possible and when we feel the time is right.

Thank you for your patience and also for your support and the many kind words of appreciation you have shared with schools at this time.

Best wishes



Damian Chubb  
CEO