

My Ref: PW/TK 026

Your Ref:

Date: 22 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 10 May, schools in Staffordshire are preparing to open to more pupils from 1 June, in line with government guidance.

With an education landscape as large and varied as Staffordshire's, there is no 'one size fits all' when it comes our schools. They are autonomous and we trust them to make the right decision for their school and pupils. Every school is different, so this means arrangements will differ from school to school.

Each school and academy will inform their parents and carers of their individual arrangements. This will include which year groups they can safely accommodate, how many pupils per classroom, and what social distancing measures will be in place, and how to stagger the start and end of the school day.

Staffordshire's health, safety and wellbeing team are providing advice and guidance to schools to support their planning.

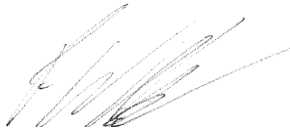
We recognise that many parents are anxious and concerned in the current climate. However, we believe the measures that headteachers and staff are taking should reassure and encourage parents and carers to send their children to school if they have been invited to return.

It is not compulsory for a parent or carer to send their child back at the present time and there will be no fines for parents who decide not to. It is however important that any children not returning to school continue to complete home learning activities to minimise the impact on their education due to not being in school.

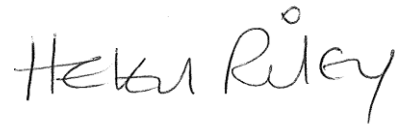
There will be further Government announcements this month on its plans for schools and wider recovery arrangements. This may mean that schools do have to change arrangements at short notice, but they will be sure to keep parents and carers informed.

Thank you for your understanding and for working with your school, whether your child will be attending or continuing their home learning with your support. I am also sure you will join me in thanking our hard-working teachers and other school staff for the extraordinary work they continue to do in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Philip White
Cabinet Member for Learning & Employability
Councillor for Dove Division



Helen Riley
Deputy Chief Executive
Director for Families & Communities