

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As the Prime Minister addressed the nation last night, he set out the possibility for a phased return of primary aged children to school. I'm sure that you, like us, have many questions in response. For now, please let me reassure you that over the next few weeks nothing will change. School is still open for the children of key workers and the most vulnerable children whilst others are being educated at home.

We receive the updates from the government at exactly the same time and in the same way as you. They have said that further guidance on schools is to follow this week, however we already have teams working across the trust drawing up detailed plans to prepare for a safe return when that happens.

However, I cannot stress strongly enough that the guiding principle behind each and every one of those plans is to keep the children, staff and parents as safe as we possibly can. Please be under no illusions, social distancing measures with 4, 5 and 6 year olds is an incredible challenge, even more so with a depleted work force and limited resources.

Before opening further, we hope to receive timely, clear and effective guidance on PPE, track and tracing methods and quick, effective methods on testing for staff. The school day will look quite different with as many social distancing measures that we can manage put in place and each school will be risk assessed to prepare for an increase in numbers.

Rest assured, if we cannot meet the criteria to safely open our doors then our schools will remain closed. We will also follow advice issued from unions with regards to the safe deployment of staff.

Please keep up the good and difficult work that you are all doing to get through this. We will update you as soon as the government provides us with a firm direction and we have a way forward. Nothing will change overnight and we will communicate clearly with you around the changes to school days and routines with as much notice as we can before any further return takes place. The **earliest** any changes would be made is the 1st June,

As always, we will get through this together as schools and as communities. When the time is right we will rebuild, recover and thrive once again. Safely.

Take care

Mr Gary Evans



Chief Executive Officer
Blue Kite Academy Trust



Ferndale
Primary and Nursery School

