

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020



## FAO All Parents/Carers of Bradgate Education Partnership

Dear All

### Re: Increased opening of schools in June

As noted in our letter last week and following further discussion with our headteachers we are now writing to you outlining the Trust's plans for the increased opening of our schools in the coming weeks. At this point we would like to thank our families and staff for returning such informative and honest responses to the questionnaires as this has provided invaluable insight to support our plans. We would also like to publicly thank our headteachers and their staff, who have been amazing throughout this situation. Coming to a collective decision in such an unprecedented situation has not been easy but key to our decision making has been the safety and well-being of our pupils and staff. We know that our decisions will not please everyone but we have been strongly guided by the responses we received from the questionnaires so have tried to consider as many opinions and wishes as possible.

### The plan

Year group	Date for re-opening
Key worker / vulnerable children	Continue to attend
Y6	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
Y1, Y10 & Y12	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June
YR and Pre-School/Nursery	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June

Your school will provide you with all of the local arrangements for your child with regards to timings, staffing, drop-off and collection etc.

### Could these timelines change?

We hope not. However, if the situation with Covid19 improves significantly we have modelled bringing back groups of pupils more swiftly. Similarly, if the situation declines we feel confident we could push back these timescales and support pupils via online and home:schooling for longer.

### Why these year groups?

These are the year groups the government has asked us to prioritise. We also feel strongly that Y6 are the most appropriate year group to return to enable a full closure on their primary school and to support their transition to secondary school. We feel the option of some face-to-face tuition and feedback will be beneficial to those pupils with important exams next year.

### Why these timings?

We have staggered the introduction of pupils to allow for us to manage the re-introduction successfully. We have decided to bring back the older pupils first as we feel these pupils will adapt to the new environment, systems and conditions better. Also, very clearly in the feedback we received from families was the message that parents and carers of younger pupils requested additional time to make their decision about returning their children to school.

### **What about other year groups?**

We considered at length the possibility of bringing back other year groups but have been given clear guidance that we are not able to do this. Therefore those pupils who are not yet being offered the opportunity to return to school will continue to receive support for online and home:schooling.

### **Do I have to send my child back?**

The government would like all those children in the identified year groups to return to school and we will be doing everything we can to make that return as safe as possible. However, we completely understand why some people may not feel confident at this moment in time with their child returning to school. Therefore we will be continuing to try and provide support for online and home:schooling even in those year groups with the option to return. We hope this means that no child misses out. At this moment in time we do not think there will be any actions towards those parents keeping their children at home but if the government issues further guidance we will share this with you. We certainly won't be pushing for this and will try to respect and support your decision regarding your child.

### **What are you doing to keep my child safe?**

The specific arrangements for your child will be provided by your child's headteacher. However, all schools have undertaken and implemented stringent cleaning regimes as well as comprehensive risk-assessments and planning prior to re-opening. All schools will be making a raft of adjustments, including reducing group sizes to a maximum of 15 but once again it is worth making it clear that the strict 2m social distancing policy cannot be maintained in a school environment. Examples of the cleaning requirements, pre-opening planning and risk assessments will be published shortly on the Trust website. We will also publish the headline data returns we received from families and staff.

### **What happens if there is a case of Covid19 at my child's school?**

If there is a suspected case all families in the affected group will be informed and asked to keep their child at home – online support will be provided. If the case tests negative all children will be able to return to their group; if the case is confirmed positive all staff and pupils in that particular group will be required to quarantine for 14 days – again online support and resources will be provided for these pupils.

### **What are the staffing arrangements?**

Headteachers are making local staffing arrangements and will share these with you prior to your child returning to school. Regrettably there is very little 'wriggle room' on these groups as the government guidance is very strict on this matter and once the groups have been set they cannot be changed for the foreseeable future. Where possible we will try to provide a familiar member of staff for your child – but in some cases we may need to place your child in a group with a member of staff from a different year group. As you might expect we have staff who are experiencing some understandable anxieties, as well as some of the practical childcare considerations many of you are facing. We are going to try to support our staff and respect their situation throughout this period.

### **Curriculum**

When pupils return to school we will not be providing a regular curriculum. Although there are bound to be elements of key skills such as reading and mathematics involved we will be focussing strongly upon supporting the transition back into school and the children's well-being. We hope you can support us with this decision.

### **Key worker and Vulnerable pupils**

We would encourage people to continue to use this facility. The provision for these pupils will remain, although pupils in the government's identified year groups (YR,1,6, 10 & 12) should move into their respective year group arrangements as they become available – e.g. any Y6 key worker pupils should continue to use the key worker provision up until June 1<sup>st</sup> then move into the Y6 group.

## **Before and after-school care**

We are asking everyone to be as flexible as possible with regards to the arrangements for families who ordinarily would require childcare. However, at this moment in time we cannot re-open these facilities.

## **Closure dates**

In order to allow for deep-cleaning we have provisionally highlighted Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June as possible closure days in our schools. This is not yet confirmed but we felt any advance notice or warning may be useful.

Thank you for your on-going support. We will continue to publish any relevant or helpful documents on our website and will communicate any future developments as soon as possible.

**Yours Sincerely**



**Gareth Nelmes**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



**Dean Pomeroy**  
**Director of Schools**