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CEO: Mrs C Dickinson

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Dear Families

I am sure that you will all have heard the announcement from the Prime Minister last weekend stating that schools will start to reopen from 1st June at the earliest. I am sure that you will all be wondering what is happening and waiting to hear about plans for this. Please be reassured that we are creating a plan **should the five key points be met as stated by the Government.**

Thank you to all of you who have completed the questionnaire giving us an indication of whether or not you will want your child to return at this point. In order to help your responses, we set out these guidelines which were applicable at that time:

- When the school reopens, it will not be returning to normal.
 - Your child will be in a smaller group than usual and may not be taught by their own class teacher
 - All groups will be separate from each other in order to help us to do our utmost to ensure social distancing.
 - This will only be a part-time provision, perhaps for reduced hours and on certain days only.
- Current DfE guidance states that only one parent will be able to accompany their child to school and may not come onto the school site. We will therefore be making arrangements for you to drop your child at the gates.

Having considered this, many of you have replied that you 'may' send your child in to school. Once we have clear plans, this may help you firm up your decisions. At present, we are not currently in a position to share details with you as we are receiving updates from the DfE several times a day and there are many changes. We are working with other local Heads, Trusts and Surrey to get a collaborative approach to all Surrey based schools and academies.

To help guide our plans we have agreed a set of **Key Principles for Kite Academy schools' reopening following pandemic closure.** These principles are:

- When schools re-open they will not be returning to 'normal'. It is unlikely that normal school life will return until the end of the academic year 2021.
- Health and safety is our key priority. Decision making and planning will be based on measures that employ a 'bubbles' approach to limit the chances of close contact.
- At all times the wellbeing and safety of our staff is high priority and we endeavour to collaborate with staff to develop safe systems of work and create a comfortable working environment.
- As always, children will be at the 'heart' of our planning; all aspects will consider the implications for vulnerable children.
- Our local planning will work with national policies and expectations.
- Planning will be based on collaboration between schools, trusts, settings, teams within LA. Dioceses and wider agencies supporting schools. Success of planning dependent upon coordinated approach owned by schools.



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- The Trust will enable individual academies to deliver a timed, measured and planned return to education, supported by other partners.
- In our Trust-wide approach, we will endeavour to ensure consistency across the different contexts of our academies.
- Through the delivery of a Recovery Curriculum, we aim to minimise the educational, social and well-being disparities that have emerged through the pandemic.
- With all of the work that staff have put into making it a successful period now and going forward for all of our children and families we have decided to ask SCL to run the half term provision again for children of key workers.

Half Term

I am sure you will join me in thanking all of our staff for their hard work during the pandemic. We have considered our commitment to critical workers childcare and giving staff a well-earned rest. We have decided that we will employ SCL to run the childcare at Holly Lodge and The Grove during the half term week as we did at Easter. The reason it is on two sites rather than the current three is based on the bookings that have been made for this period and the lower than expected numbers during Easter. You should have received an email with a link for this if you have been accessing this care. The critical worker families are the same as they have been throughout the pandemic. Please check the following link if you are unsure:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

After the break we will run the childcare facilities from your child's own academy. This will either be alongside other year groups attending school or will give staff some time to get the children acclimatised into a new way of working and new routines before other children return to school. Please continue to book your place in the usual way and we will ensure your admin team know that your child will be attending.

Thank you once again for all your support and positive messages.

Yours sincerely



Christine Dickinson

CEO The Kite Academy Trust