

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Phased Re-opening of pre-schools and mainstream schools (nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6)

As we approach the end of our first full half term in lock down we hope that this letter finds you and your families well. Thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we respond to the announcement made by the Government last week regarding a staged return to school.

The Government has been continually clear that it would only be possible to start inviting more children back into schools and settings when its five key 'tests' have been met. That position has not changed, and it continues to guide Government actions. A final announcement on whether schools are safe to reopen will be made by the Government on Thursday 28th May. After this we will be in a position to let you know detailed arrangements for each individual school.

Behind the scenes a series of very productive meetings have taken place between Headteacher representatives and Local Authority staff from across Education, Human Resources, Legal, Health and Safety, Insurance and Public Health teams. These meetings were designed to agree the criteria that would provide schools with the reassurance requested in terms of support from the Local Authority, in response to the Government's announcement on the wider reopening of schools.

In response to the criteria and guidance that our schools have received, the Trust Leadership Group have worked tirelessly to risk assess the safety of provision at Alumnis Schools.

Alumnis Multi-Academy Trust

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Zoe Batten
Chief Executive Officer

Rose Colpus-Fricke
Trust Business Manager

Whilst it is the Government's aim to re-open schools from 1st June, as a trust of seven schools, we recognise that every school and setting is different; their capacity to be able to deliver this may vary and any phased returns may also need to vary.

Alumnis Multi Academy Trust aims to provide the best provision possible at every school under the circumstances.

It is important to emphasise that our first priority is to ensure school and early years settings remain available for children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

For definitions of 'critical workers' and 'vulnerable' children please refer to the following guidance, jointly provided by the Cabinet Office and the Department for Education (DfE):

[Critical workers who can access schools or educational settings](#)

We will follow the recommended prioritisation order below in all our settings, but each school will only re-open for each year group if they have the staffing and space capacity to safely provide the necessary protective measures.

1. Vulnerable children;
2. Critical Worker children;
3. Nursery children; (3 and 4 year olds and then 2+ year olds)
4. Reception children;
5. Year 1 children;
6. Year 6 children.

Having carried out detailed planning, we have come to the conclusion that not all schools will be able to open for all the above year groups. Even where we have capacity, we may not be able to open every day, or for the whole of normal school hours. We hope to be able to confirm the provision we can offer in each school next Friday, 29th May, but the earliest any school will reopen for any year group will be Thursday 4th June.

However, we can already say that none of our schools has the capacity to open for Year 6 children within the government social distancing guidelines. Furthermore, if the Government later decides that schools should open for years 2 to 5, we will not be able to do this unless the guidelines are significantly relaxed.

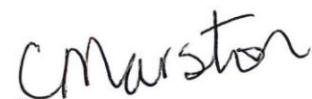
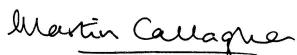
Across our schools we have received a range of responses from families regarding any return to school. We understand that everyone's circumstances are different and that some families will choose not to send their children back to school. We will of course continue with our remote learning provision for children not returning to school at this time.

We are unable to give you a final plan today as there are still issues that need clarification from the government. There are also important protections that we need to have in place, including cleaning arrangements and appropriate PPE. However we can confirm the following:

- Our in-school provision for vulnerable and critical worker children will continue
- The earliest any school will reopen to other children is 4th June
- We will not be able to offer any in-school provision for Year 6
- Reopening may be staggered, following the priority order above.
- To enable schools to operate safely and within government guidelines, there will be a reduced timetable.
- There will be no wrap around care such as breakfast or after school clubs

In addition to these, please click [here](#) to access a separate document detailing more information regarding the planned Trust wide school reopening in which further measures that will be in place are explained for your information.

We would like to thank you for your support over recent months, and we hope that in partnership, we can reopen our schools in a safe and sustainable manner. The health, safety and wellbeing of **all** will always be our utmost priority to protect our school communities. We will keep you updated with further information and arrangements as future details are known.

**Mr Martin Callaghan**

Chair of the Board of Directors
Alumnis Multi Academy Trust

Mrs Z Batten

Chief Executive Officer
Alumnis Multi Academy Trust

Mr G Bladon

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