

Friday 29th May 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

We hope that you have had a lovely half term break and enjoyed the sunshine!

We are writing to give you a further update on the wider reopening of Alumnis Schools and to share with you the processes involved in our planning. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

We acknowledge that different schools will have a variety of different plans for wider opening; we have chosen to adhere to Governmental and Local Authority guidance in order to create a sustainable provision and we look forward to the time when all schools are in a position to provide a more normal learning experience for all children in their care.

Governmental guidance advises that children and staff should be divided into small groups, known as “bubbles”. Each bubble will be treated as an individual unit, led by dedicated adults. Children will not mix with other bubbles, and staff members will remain within their allocated bubble, except in the case of an emergency.

To work out the number of bubbles possible in each school, our schools have taken into account the numbers of staff available, bearing in mind that some staff are shielding and will not be returning to school at present. Schools have also measured their available capacity, to enable each bubble to have sufficient space to allow social distancing to take place as far as possible. Whilst schools’ best efforts have been put in place to plan rooms and space accordingly, we cannot absolutely guarantee that social distancing will be maintained at all times.

Following these calculations, we then applied the prioritisation strategy advised by the DfE for wider school opening as follows:

1. Vulnerable Children
2. Children of Critical Workers
3. Nursery / Preschool (if appropriate)

Alumnis Multi-Academy Trust

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St Helen’s Church of England School
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EX39 5AP



Zoe Batten
Chief Executive Officer

Rose Colpus-Fricker
Trust Business Manager

4. Reception
5. Year 1
6. Year 6

We are aware that some of our schools have large numbers of Critical Worker parents, who may over the forthcoming weeks need or choose to request a place for their child. In order to ensure a sustainable provision we must maintain not only current but future capacity so that we can continue to deliver this essential function.

We do appreciate that some families and children will be disappointed not to be able to return to school at this time, however Headteachers will continue to regularly review the numbers of children in their schools and will respond accordingly to any relaxation of social distancing measures.

During this time we hope that all of our children will continue to access the full offer of distance learning provided. For children in year six, teachers will be liaising with secondary school colleagues in order to support the best possible transition under the circumstances.

Whilst at this stage we anticipate the date for the wider opening of our schools being the 4th June, as part of their planning and risk assessment processes schools have identified items of PPE that will be required. Delivery of these items are anticipated prior to the 4th June, however should this be subject to any delay by suppliers schools may need to postpone their phased wider opening. Headteachers will provide an update to their school communities as soon as possible if there are any changes to the wider opening plans.

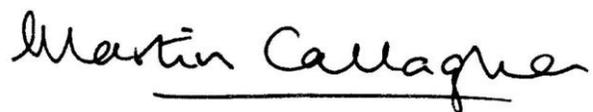
Nationally, many parents have expressed concerns about their children returning to school. Please be reassured that our schools will continue to work with you and support you and your family over the coming weeks and months.

Your child's Headteacher will be writing to you separately to provide further details about the future provision, and in the meantime the Alumnis Board of Directors wish you and your family well.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Zoe Batten
Chief Executive Officer
Alumnis Multi Academy Trust



Mr Martin Callaghan
Chair of the Board of Directors
Alumnis Multi Academy Trust