



South York
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford, York. YO10 4FY

T: 01904 633300 E: office@fulford.york.sch.uk W: www.fulford.york.sch.uk

24th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to update you on the position of our Trust schools following the latest government announcements regarding the further easing of the Covid 19 lockdown arrangements.

We are incredibly pleased at the improving situation in relation to the COVID 19 outbreak and we are delighted at the prospect of welcoming our pupils back into their schools from September. We are, however, yet to receive any information and guidance on how to implement any measures to safely achieve this return to school. We expect further information on this issue to be published in the next two weeks and we will be back in contact with you once we have received this and we are able to determine what actions we need to take to fully and safely reopen our schools. Please be assured we will give you information on this long awaited and much desired return to schools as soon as possible. This return of our pupils is a move we very much welcome and we look forward to ensuring our pupils, staff and their families can be confident and reassured at the resumption of more normalised provision.

While the government has relaxed the 2m 'rule', the clear advice is that 2m should currently be maintained where possible and particularly when prolonged contact is required between individuals, unless a range of further safety measures are implemented. In light of this, and in conjunction with the capacity restrictions we face on staffing, rooming to accommodate smaller groups in many of our schools, and the drive to maintain the integrity and 'sealed' nature of many of our current teaching bubbles, this means that most of our schools will be unable to accommodate further students or teaching groups prior to the end of term. While the government has made several changes today, we in school are still working to the current guidance issued by the DfE relating to maximum class sizes, social distancing and the use of teaching 'bubbles'.

Our Trust schools, and particularly their Headteachers and school leadership, are working incredibly hard to maintain and develop our current provision and will continue to do so as we seek to normalise our provision for September. In the meantime, for the remainder of this term, we will continue to offer support to those in our schools in addition to providing resources and support for those engaged in remote learning.

The Headteacher of your son/daughter's school will continue to communicate directly with you in relation to the provision and arrangements at their school site. As you will appreciate, there will be little time left between the publication of the guidance governing the September return and the end of this term. This means our schools will be incredibly busy in seeking to familiarise themselves with any new guidance, planning to implement this and communicating any new arrangements to all stakeholders. This work comes at a time of year when school leaders are already dealing with 'virtual' transition and planning September teaching groups for a range of possible scenarios.

I would like to personally thank you for your support for our Headteachers and staff at this difficult time. Those within our Trust do not underestimate the pressures caused by school closures and the deep desire to get our pupils back in to school as safely and as soon as possible. Please be assured of our ongoing commitment to work with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Savage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Lorna Savage
Trust CEO