

Dear Parents/Carers,

I know that many of you will have been following the government announcements around their advice and guidance over the last few days.

A lot of guidance was published very recently for parents which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/>

As CEO of Tees Valley Education Trust, of which your school is a member, I want to share this with you now so that you know how we are responding.

Now that we have more guidance we are currently:

- Creating a detailed review of our sites to calculate the safe numbers of staff and children we can accommodate and to plan for the significant changes we will need to make to around the academies, to routines, hygiene and social distancing
- Working with our staff to share ideas and understand their feedback of operating in a new way in order to keep them, their families and your children safe
- Working with you as parents and carers to understand your views and how we can continue to support your child and family's needs, in a new way

I know how incredibly difficult this time has been, and will continue to be in the near future, for you all. We have worked tirelessly over the last 8 weeks with you all in ensuring that meals for those entitled to them are available, delivering care packages, undertaking door-step visits, linking with communities and charities as well as providing a range of online and paper based learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your incredible response to all of the staff's efforts and let you know that it means such a lot to them to hear this. I also want to reassure you that whilst everybody in the Tees Valley Education family still want to be back within our academies and with the children, it has to be done safely. It is paramount that we take every measure we can to support your children and you but also our staff and their families in delivering safe educational and care entitlement to your children.

Consequently, I have to say that there will be a limited number of places available and the children of key workers will keep priority, along with those classed as vulnerable in the guidance. We will shortly be contacting parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children to establish an interest in a place for their child, should one be available. This will help us to plan more efficiently with the actual numbers interested and allow us to consider how we could offer places probably on a rota basis. We will not be looking at Nursery places at the moment and have to also acknowledge that this means we will not see some of our children until September at the earliest. Please rest assured though that attendance is not compulsory at the moment so no attendance interventions will be running.

The Prime Minister was quite clear that the 1st of June would be the first time we could potentially offer this, and whilst we are committed to trying to offer opportunities as soon as we safely can, much

more careful planning will still need to take place. The Head teachers, staff and I are undertaking this at the moment using all of the guidance and materials available. Therefore, please rest assured we will keep you up to date with regular communication and will seek your views and feedback as we develop our planning.

We remain committed to supporting the welfare of and the educational opportunities for all children so we will, of course, continue sharing learning opportunities for all and continue undertaking all of the amazing community work.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, it really is making a huge difference to the staff and our children. As always, I remain confident that through a careful and pragmatic approach, we will find a solution that works for all of us as a community.

With all best wishes,

Katrina Morley