

1st June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Before I begin, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and co-operation since we had to close to the majority of children due to the current pandemic. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disabilities, or if you are a single parent.

Following on from my recent communications and the Government's decision to open schools more widely, I am now writing to confirm that we will be welcoming Year 6 children back from Monday 8th June 2020. Whilst the Government's ambition is to also invite early years and Reception children back too, you will no doubt appreciate that we are taking a cautious approach to wider re-opening and we will only invite those year groups back as and when we know it is safe to do so in our own setting.

In order to best protect your child, the academy community and our staff, we have put a number of temporary measures in place.

I have summarised the most important information that you need in order to decide whether your child should attend the academy at this time.

- **Keeping your child safe:**

Our Estates team have been working tirelessly with all ATT Principals to ensure all possible protective measures are in place.

Measures such as small class sizes, one-way systems around the academy and more focus on hygiene routines will be in place from 8th June. Breaktimes and lunch times will also look and feel very different as we attempt to keep children from mixing with any more people than necessary.

All of these additional measures are laid out in detail in a comprehensive collection of risk assessments which you are welcome to view on our academy website under the designated COVID19 tab.

We have also added some temporary procedures to our standard policies, including safeguarding and behaviour. We are issuing an additional Home Academy Agreement for you to sign, prior to your child returning to the academy, so that we can all truly work together to keep your child safe.

- **Attendance expectations:**

If a member of your household is displaying symptoms related to Coronavirus (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) please do not send your child into the academy. You can access testing through the NHS website. If anyone in your household is positively tested for Coronavirus, your child should not return to the academy for 14 days.

Children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (please check the following link for an up-to-date list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>) should not currently return to the academy. If someone else in your household is classed as extremely vulnerable, you should only return your child to school if you believe your child can stringently adhere to social/physical distancing measures and follow all instructions given to them.

If your child is clinically vulnerable but not on the above list, please seek medical advice before making your decision whether they should attend.

Whilst our desire is to welcome all pupils back at the appropriate time, we completely understand that you will be anxious about whether your child will be safe in the current circumstances and I wanted to be clear that you will not be held to account in the normal manner should you choose not to send your child back to school during this unprecedented time. We may make calls home to check that children who can be in school, and are not, are safe but I would like to assure you that the Government have confirmed that no action (including fines) will be taken for non-attendance.

In the first instance (on 8th June), Year 6 children may attend along with priority children and those whose parents are key workers. If we deem your child to be a priority pupil, you will have received a phone call making you aware of this.

We regret to confirm that brothers and sisters of Year 6 children will not be able to attend the academy, unless they fall into either of the other two categories.

It is then intended that we will invite other year groups back on the following dates:

Year 1	15 <sup>th</sup> June
Reception	22 <sup>nd</sup> June

These dates may change if we are not able to safely accommodate those pupils expected. We will give you as much notice as possible, if they do need to change.

Assuming that we will need to continue socially/physically distancing until the summer holidays, based on our risk assessments and school capacity surveys, it is highly unlikely that any other year groups will be asked to attend the site this academic year. We very much hope this situation will change by September 2020.

It is important to note that, if we do not have enough staff to safely supervise all of the children attending (this may be because of increased demand for key worker places or staff sickness), we may have to retract the offer for some pupils to attend the academy and revert back to home learning. We will obviously give you as much notice as possible, if this situation arises.

- **Uniform expectations:**

We do not expect children to wear school uniform during the remainder of this academic year but ask that your child has clean clothes and sensible footwear every day.

- **Transport:**

Wherever possible, you should avoid public transport. Walking and cycling would be the preferred methods of transport.

If you are bringing your child to school by car, please be considerate to our academy neighbours and park in a safe manner.

- **Dropping your child off and picking up:**

To best protect against social gatherings at the start and end of the school day, we have arranged for start and end times to be staggered. Please aim to arrive at school as close to the allocated time as possible and maintain a social distance from other family groups. We recommend that you discuss this with your child before they attend.

For Year 6 children, the start time will be 8:50am and collection time will be 2:30pm.

For Year 1 children, the start time will be 9:05am and collection time will be 2:15pm.

For Reception children, the start time will be 9:20am and collection time will be 2.00pm.

For all of our key worker or priority pupil group, the drop off and collection times will remain the usual timings for the school day.

After coming through the school gates, children will need to make their way to the area in which they will be using according to their bubble. You will be informed, during the week prior to your child returning, which bubble they are in and where they will be based. At the classroom door, all children will be greeted by a member of staff. We ask that you remain with your child until they are received by our staff.

During the day, we may check your child's temperature, including on entry to the academy. Should the reading indicate that they have a high temperature, you will be required to take your child home.

- **Arrangements for lunch provision:**

We have assessed the risk of you sending your child into the academy with packed lunches and will not be allowing children to do this. We will be providing bottles of water and our caterers are providing meals for any children who are attending the academy.

We anticipate this will be free of charge for the remainder of the academic year but will give you notice should this change. If your child has any allergies or special dietary requirements (and will be attending school), please do let the academy know as quickly as possible. To minimise movement around the academy, we will be delivering packed lunches to classrooms.

- **Equipment provisions**

To restrict the sharing of equipment within the school environment, we have identified everything that will not be in use during this extraordinary time. Our curriculum has been adapted to take account of this. Your child will be provided with a resource pack, containing writing materials, an exercise book and any other paper resources required for their learning. This resource pack will be named and is for your child to use only. Whilst we will be explaining why the children shouldn't share their equipment with classmates, it would be helpful if you can reinforce this message at home.

- **Academy contact:**

To ensure we minimise the number of individuals entering the school site, we ask that parents do not enter the site for ad-hoc meetings. If you need to speak to anyone please call the office on 01638 713001 or email [admin@beckrow.atrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@beckrow.atrust.org.uk) and a relevant member of staff will be in touch. Whilst your child's teacher is always keen to discuss your child with you, in the current circumstances we request that you do not approach our staff whilst on-site. Emails can still be sent directly to each phase using the email addresses on the home learning pages, however please remember that during the working day, all staff will be working with groups of children and therefore may not be able to respond promptly.

Kind regards,

Mrs. R. King  
Principal