



# Highfields Academy

*Together we inspire, always aiming higher*

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Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020,

Good morning everyone,

Officially today would be the last day of this half term and in normal circumstances we would all be looking forward to our half term holiday. As you already know, we will be open next week, including the bank holiday, and things will continue to operate in the same way they have been doing since the end of March. As it is technically a holiday period teachers will not be expected to provide online learning for pupils next week.

Nationally, what happens on June 1<sup>st</sup> is still up in the air. There has been a lot of discussion on BBC about this this morning. 150 councils have been surveyed and around two thirds of these have responded. 68 councils can't guarantee opening on the 1<sup>st</sup> to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, 13 councils have made it clear that they will not be expanding pupil numbers on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 20 councils are planning to follow the DfE guidance and open to prioritised year groups and 11 are still considering their provision.

The government have confirmed that their next report will be distributed to schools later today, and I expect that this will come with further guidance. I did aim to get the Risk Assessment to you today but this is now going to be next week.

The Board of Star Academy Trust agreed on Wednesday that we would be initially following the Cheshire East recommendations (timeline was shared with you yesterday) but that this will be reviewed regularly. This means that from June 1<sup>st</sup> we will be opening up places to children of key workers, pupils with EHC plans and those who have social care involvement. This has been the case since we 'closed' but children are now welcome back full time rather than as needed. This is phase 1 of returning all pupils back into full time education. I have had a few emails from parents asking whether this has to be full time or whether children can still come in on certain days. The intention is that these pupils do return full time to school, as the first step of returning to normal provision. Wraparound care continues to be 'as needed'.

I know that many of you want to see the risk assessment to see what school will look like and how the groupings will work before you make a decision about whether your children will return. What school will look like and particularly the groupings does depend on the numbers of pupils who do return so it is a bit of a 'chicken and egg' situation. The main parts of the risk assessment will not change but some details around provision and groupings may change depending on the numbers.

I will strive to get the risk assessment to you by Tuesday morning but then ask that you all respond as quickly as possible (by Wednesday at the latest) so that we can then hopefully provide further details by the end of the week in preparation for 1<sup>st</sup>



June. I will need your co-operation on this. All emails should be sent directly to me at [head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk).

I hope you all have a good week next week. Take care, keep safe, and thank you again for your continued support.

Simon Dyson  
Principal

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