

---

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am sure that you have been watching with interest the latest announcements on releasing the lockdown, and also on the proposed phased return to schools from the 1st June. Our schools, academies and their Headteachers are very aware of the need to ease our children back into school. However, they also know that it needs to be done safely and in a managed way. I am sure that you, as parents need to know that if your children return to school, they are safe and remain safe.

Much work is being done with our schools to make the right decisions on a safe return and to ensure that buildings, staffing and managing the safety of your child is at the forefront of any decision made on how and when children return.

The situation in our schools varies as to how they are able to manage this return. In some schools, the buildings may not be able to cope with all children from the year groups suggested as there may not be enough teaching spaces to manage this safely. Some schools may need to prioritise which children are able to return from the 1st June and, in such cases, some children may need a little while longer before they can come back to school.

We are all mindful that our children of key workers, those children who are vulnerable and also those with a special educational needs Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be priorities for us.

Schools are working on their risk assessments now so that they can agree what will work in their own schools in a healthy and safe environment for staff and your children.

I ask you to bear with us in this. Schools will be in touch with parents with more information once we have everything in place to manage the phased return and how this will affect you and your child.

We all want the very best for our children and also that they remain safe and that you and our staff in schools have confidence that they will remain safe at this time.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Wagstaff**

Director of Education & Skills