

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

For parents with children in reception, year 1 and year 6

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Chief Executive Officer: Andrea Arlidge

Dear parents/carers

### Widening opening in WMAT primary schools to children in reception, year 1 and year 6

Thank you for sending back your responses yesterday. We appreciate it was a tight turnaround but hope you understand the huge amount of planning and preparation that needed to be done in each school before we could confidently share the final plans with you.

We also appreciate that some parents may not feel ready to send their child back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and have produced a process that will enable children to return at a later date, as was mentioned in the FAQ document you received before the holiday. As the term progresses, children in Reception, year 1 and year 6 who remain at home, can come back into school at the start of a week, giving their child's headteacher one week's notice of this so they can adjust their plans and staffing to accommodate this. Parents should notify the school by 3.30pm on a Monday if they wish their child to return on the following Monday. This will involve a review of the risk assessment for each school, which we will endeavour to have completed by the Wednesday so that any changes for the following week can then be communicated to parents. We hope that the majority of children do return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> but understand that some families will have circumstances that may make this difficult for them.

We are trying hard to be as flexible as possible in support of parents and children during these unprecedented times. Our over-riding concern at all times is the safety of children and staff, which produces many necessary constraints. Thank you for your understanding of this and I'm sure you appreciate that the situation in each school is likely to change, in response to changes in staff availability and pupil numbers. The government is clear about how we prioritise provision should a school have difficulties. The priority order is:

1. Provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children in all year groups
2. Reception
3. Year 1
4. Year 6

If a school does find itself in a position where it has to scale back provision we will try hard to make sure this is a temporary situation and will look to bring in additional staffing and/or use accommodation in another WMAT school where we can.

I hope you feel assured by the careful planning each school has undertaken so it is ready to welcome more children back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Our schools are ready and are looking forward to seeing the children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the headteachers and their staff for everything they have done to get to this point.

If your child is returning I hope they, and you, have a very positive experience.

Yours sincerely,



D Sage  
Headteacher



Andrea Arlidge  
Chief Executive