

# The Harlington & Sundon Academy Trust



## 'LEARNING FOR LIFE'

8th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### VERY IMPORTANT Plans for September re-opening for ALL pupils

#### Home Learning - A huge thank you

Firstly, since the 23<sup>rd</sup> March you have been supporting your child with home learning due to the unprecedented closure of schools across England due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Thank you for the enormous amount of support, energy, patience and the great spirit you have shown. We are under no illusion how demanding this will have been for many of our families and children, and we have really appreciated the teamwork between us to all work together in very challenging circumstances – thank you!

#### Information about School Reopening in September 2020

As you will know, last week the Government announced its intent and plan for all children, in all year groups, to return to full time school from the start of September. It is based on a twin strategy of limiting contact between children and implementing hygiene measures within 'systems of control' which schools are already familiar with. These include measures such as regular handwashing and promoting good respiratory hygiene (the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach). Contact is to be limited in two main ways: by ensuring children remain in consistent groups or 'bubbles' wherever possible and by maintaining distance between individuals wherever possible i.e. social distancing. In order for our Academy to open to all children in September, we will continue to follow Dfe Guidance and implement necessary the health and safety procedures and risk assessment measures so that we are confident that we can keep children and staff safe and manage risk effectively. Please be reassured that we are following all guidance we have been given so that we can welcome back all our children into school safely at the start of September.

The main logistical consideration for all schools is determining group or 'bubble' sizes for September. In order that our Academy can deliver a full curriculum from September, we will implement full class teaching 'bubbles. This will mean that group sizes will increase from a maximum of 15 children which is how we have been operating since March to groups of up to 30 children. **This will mean your child will be with the same children in the same class with their new teacher.** At Sundon, children are in mixed year groups within key stages with a maximum of 30 children per class. We will follow a key principle of the government's method that 'bubbles' must remain consistent. Children will not be moving between bubbles and staff should be as consistent as possible although they may work across different groups to deliver the school timetable but should keep their distance from children and adults as much as they can.

#### Measures for arriving and leaving school

Since lockdown we have been operating successfully using staggered start and finish times for different teaching groups or bubbles. We will have to continue with this prevention measure in September so that we avoid large gatherings at the school gate as well as keeping different groups apart. Unfortunately, parents will not be able to come onto our school site without first making an appointment. You will be notified start and finish times for each class. Please be punctual with keeping to these timings. These staggered start and finish times will not reduce the overall teaching time as we will adjust lunchbreaks accordingly.



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### Attendance

Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. From September 2020, the government expects all pupils to return full time to school. This means that school attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the autumn term. The usual school rules on attendance will apply including:

- Parents' duty to ensure their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil and they are of compulsory school age
- School's responsibilities to record attendance and follow up on absence
- if your child does not return to school our normal attendance policy will come into force and sanctions may be issued, including fixed penalty notices/ fines in with local author code of conduct.

### Behaviour Expectations

We have been very pleased and impressed by the sensible attitude that children who have attended school this term have shown, ensuring they can comply with our protective measures to minimise and control risk so they keep themselves and our community safe. In September, all children will be expected to respect not only the usual school rules, but also the rules around handwashing, personal hygiene, social distancing, staying in specified zones etc. We know almost all children will be fully respectful, but will ensure that any child who does not respect the rules will be isolated and sent home. It simply isn't fair, or safe, for other children, staff and families.

We will write shortly giving further details for all year groups returning to school in September which I am sure will answer many of your questions. As you can appreciate we have lots of information that we will continue to share with you to keep you fully informed.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and patience at what continues to be, a very challenging and stressful time. I really do appreciate us all working together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C White', on a light blue background.

Mrs C White  
Head Teacher