



Friday 22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to outline the Trust's position on the wider opening of our schools. As you know all the Trust Schools have remained open for the children who have needed our support and care, including the children of key/critical workers. We would like to publicly acknowledge all the tremendous work done by children and staff during lockdown. We would also like to thank you, our parents/carers, who have been magnificent in supporting us and your children's learning while in many cases also continuing work.

Our school leaders have been painstakingly assessing the government guidance on schools opening more widely for specific year groups and planning exactly how to do this within the particular contexts of each school. As a trust, we believe a **cautious, measured and phased** approach is required where the **safety and wellbeing** of our staff, children and families is paramount.

With this in mind, I can confirm that Together Learning Trust Schools will **not** be opening more widely on 1 June to year groups identified by the Government. Our schools will remain open, including during the half term break, for children of key workers and children identified as vulnerable.

Our school leaders will continue to plan meticulously for specific groups of primary phase children to return to school (in the first instance) but this will be no earlier than **8 June 2020**. Most staff will also be in school prior to this to ensure they test the plans and risk assessments in a calm, caring and consultative manner so that we can be as confident as possible, in these uncharted times, that when more children return to school all the needs, vulnerabilities and concerns for staff and children have been addressed. With that in mind we would like you complete the questionnaire that accompanies this letter.

As you will appreciate, the landscape is dynamic and guidance is rapidly emerging and changing. We will not rush this process and any plans for wider opening of our schools will be communicated in good time. We will continue to make measured and reasonable decisions in the best interests of our children and staff. Despite the challenges we are facing, I do hope you are able to enjoy a good half term break.

All the best

David Lord
Chief Executive Headteacher

Kath Parker
Head of School