

1 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Return to full face to face provision next week

I hope you and your family are keeping well.

I wanted to write to you ahead of our schools opening to all children again next Monday. These last 11 months have been some of the most trying that our communities have faced in recent memory, and I am so grateful to you for your support over the last year. We have been overwhelmed with the support, grace and generosity with which families have responded to the changes in the way that school has been delivered, from lockdown closures, to online tuition, to bubbles, and everywhere in between. Thank you. It is such a blessing to see the sense of community around us, and to feel your support. It has been a challenging period, but one through which we have striven at every turn to do the best for your, and our, children. We will continue to put their needs first and give them everything we can to support them

We are looking forward to welcoming children back to all of our schools with face to face provision from next Monday (8th March), and I want to reassure you that our systems and processes have been reviewed, and that we hold the safety of everyone as a paramount priority. We still need your support over the coming weeks, and I am sure that processes, whilst remaining tight, will inevitably change over the coming weeks as the guidance from the DfE is updated.

Our primary aged children will return to their schools on Monday 8th March, with secondary aged children phasing back in over the same week, dependent upon year group, colleagues at Manor High School will correspond directly with you as appropriate.

As part of our return to full provision plans we are introducing a new policy which all of our school Headteachers have agreed. All adults on any of our sites will be required to wear a mask. If you are exempt, or choose not to wear a mask, our staff will operate a 'pick up/drop off' at the school gate. Secondary pupils will be required to wear masks in classrooms too, in line with DfE guidance.

As a Trust we completely support any further decisions our Heads want to make regarding practices on their site to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and adults alike.

I know that you will, like me, hope that restrictions can be further eased and that we can return to whatever the new normal will look like. I note the persistently high levels of infection in our area, and thank you in advance for your continued support. Together we will get through this, we will celebrate the fullness of our life, and being able to socialise and mix freely, but together we will also share our grief and losses, for I know that there has been too much of that in our communities.

With my very best wishes



Stephen Mitchell

CEO