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Dear Parents

The last few months have seen our schools operating in circumstances which none of us could ever have envisaged. We have responded to a national crisis and the requests of our government with professionalism, commitment and a strong desire to do what is right and best for our children, our families and our nation. We have remained open for vulnerable children and children of key workers so that children who most needed it could be in school and allowed parents working to provide vital services to remain in work. I know that our schools have really appreciated your support throughout this time. It hasn't been easy but we have pulled together as a strong group of schools to make it work in the best interests of all.

In September all children will return to school full time. Since the announcement was made we have been evaluating the new Government guidance and have once again put risk assessments in place to ensure that our children and staff continue to be safe in their schools. I have visited all our schools in recent weeks and the measures that we have put in place so far are working well. It is like a military operation and the attention to detail has been impressive. Between now and September our staff will be getting ready for the return of all of our children and will be following government guidelines to ensure continued safety measures whilst enabling all children to continue with their education.

Over the course of this pandemic schools have risen to the challenge of providing child-care and support for home learning to a partial curriculum and now we look forward to providing a full curriculum over the forthcoming year. We are very conscious that our children will have had very diverse experiences during lock-down and the priority during the first weeks of term will be to provide for their social and emotional well-being as they adjust to being back at school. We have learnt a great deal from the experience of partial re-opening and know that the children who have already returned to school are happy to be back and adjusting well. We look forward to seeing even more happy faces in September.

Being in a Trust has meant that our Headteachers and Heads of School have not been alone in the complex decision making that has been required throughout this process. We have all met weekly over Zoom to review the measures that we have been taking. All have shared their problems, issues and concerns and we have worked together to provide solutions and collectively agree the best way forward for our schools. This has been a rewarding process and the teamwork has been commendable.

And now we enter the last week of term. After the last few months our staff really do deserve the break and I know that you will join me in wishing them all the best as they rest up ready for the term ahead and the joys of welcoming all of our children back to school. I hope you have a very enjoyable summer holiday.

God bless and stay safe,

Teresa Selvey

CEO



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