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Saturday 30th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a very heavy heart that we are writing to you to inform you of the fact that we are having to postpone the partial re-opening of our school until further notice. This means our planned start date of Tuesday 2nd June for all the Nursery and Year 6 places we offered will now be delayed until a later date.

The reason for this delay is because late yesterday we received correspondence from Nottinghamshire Local Authority which stated that Teaching and Support Staff Trade Unions '**remain seriously concerned about the readiness of any and all schools to open more widely next week**'. This is because '**they do not feel that there has been a reasonable amount of time for schools to prepare their plans with all staff in the short time since the risk assessment guidance was issued to schools on the 19th May**'. The correspondence also advised us that '**Trade Unions will communicate with each school opening next week with a view to escalating concerns to the Health and Safety Executive and to the press**'.

We have also since received our own correspondence from some Trade Unions and their shared view is that the advice from the Interim Report of the Independent Sage Committee of scientists must be given serious consideration when the timing of school's re-opening is being determined. The report states clearly '**that decisions on school opening should be guided by evidence of low levels of COVID-19 infections in the community and the ability to rapidly respond to new infections through a local test, track and isolate strategy. There is no clear evidence that these conditions are met. Until they are it is not safe to open schools on June 1st.**'

Please be rest assured we have worked tirelessly as a staff to prepare for the wider opening of our school and we were wholeheartedly committed to being able to start our gradual partial re-opening of school places to the specified year groups as from Tuesday. We feel confident that we have adhered to all Government Guidance to date and completed the recommended Risk Assessment procedures our Local Authority asked us to observe. However, we are currently in a consultation process with Trade Unions which our Local Authority have now requested us to complete, before opening our schools up wider.

Sadly, the intervention of the Trade Unions has come very late and, unlike our neighbouring Local Authorities in Nottingham City and Derbyshire who have made the decision not to open any schools yet, unfortunately our own Local Authority have left the decision entirely in the hand of Headteachers.

Due to this, our responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of all our pupils and all of our staff members needs to remain uppermost in our minds in our planning and as part of this we also need to support and respond to any well-evidenced local advice we receive.



We will still continue to provide the places in school for children of Critical Key Workers as we have done for the past 10 weeks. This will be subject to receipt of the required evidence as detailed in the letter available on our school website. Our Home-Learning will also commence again for all pupils not in school as from next week as planned.

We can only apologise for having to make this decision to delay our opening date and for any inconvenience this may cause some of you. Please know this has not been an easy one to make and the turmoil we feel personally is huge. We have families of our own and fully understand and sympathise with the negative impact schools being closed is causing. We are also acutely aware of the disappointment this set-back may cause to some of our pupils in Year 6 in particular. We are deeply, deeply sorry, but we trust you will understand our reasons.

Thank you as ever for your continued and loyal support. You have been truly amazing as families since schools were closed and staff miss seeing you and your children immensely. We will keep you informed of further developments and continue to do all we can further to ensure we can return to our planned partial re-opening as soon as possible.

In the meantime – please try to ensure you all stay safe and happy!

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Davies
Executive Headteacher



Emma Severn
Head of School

