



The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership
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Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the Prime Minister's speech on Sunday May 10th in which he signalled his intent to open schools to more children from after half term, subject to further scientific advice. We have now received further information and guidance from the Department for Education, which we are currently working through.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the tremendous support you have given since we were asked to close our schools to all but a priority group of learners on the 23rd March. We continue to live in unprecedented times but a sense of community has grown ever stronger. We will continue to do all we can so that, together, your child continues to receive all that they need during this time when we cannot be together within your school community.

I know that Sunday's announcement has raised a number of questions from parents. I also know that Sunday's announcement has caused angst and concern. First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child, and my staff, is my absolute priority. At this stage, we have much to do to plan for the possibility that we may be able to open our doors to more children from after half term, but I wanted to write to you at this stage to share some of the information that we have now received.

This is a limited offer and it will mean that many of our children will continue to learn from home under your care and guidance. We will, of course, continue to offer provision for those priority groups that were identified when schools closed on 23rd March. In addition, it is the government's intention that, from the week commencing 1st June (subject to scientific clearance on 28th May), we will be welcoming back all children in reception, year 1 and year 6. We have been asked to ensure that children will be taught in smaller groups and we will be making changes to the usual working day in order to provide a safe environment for all, as specified by the guidance that we have been given by the Department for Education. I will, of course, write to you again when we are able to provide more details about these arrangements.

I must stress that this is an ambition and I cannot guarantee that we will be able to open to all identified groups, other than those priority groups who have had the offer of a place since 23rd March. First and foremost, I need to ensure we are able to meet the safety measures that I know you would want and expect. In addition, we have a number of staff currently

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shielding. Finally, so as to ensure there is no ambiguity, the date specified by the Prime Minister is from June 1st; parents must not assume that, should we be able to do so, that this will start on that date. Again, I hope to confirm details very shortly.

At this stage, it is too early to say much more other than to give you some idea of the steps we are being asked to take in response to this announcement. These include ensuring class sizes are small, limiting the amount of contact between different groups of children and additional protective measures, such as increased cleaning and encouraging good hand hygiene.

I will point out that the guidance is clear that parents of eligible children will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

We do need to gauge how many of our parents of children in reception, year 1 and year 6 intend to send their children to school if and when we are able to enact this offer. In order to let us know **please can you email your child's class teacher as soon as possible and preferably by 3pm on Friday 15th May.**

Finally, we know that there are many parents reading this who are not affected and who will be expected to continue to provide home schooling alongside the resources we are sharing. Due to safety measures, and the guidance that is governing how we operate during these challenging times, we will be unable to accommodate additional children other than those in the year groups detailed earlier. We will not, therefore, be able to accept requests for siblings in other year groups.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Your headteacher will write again, next week, with further information.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Gill
CEO, ATLP