



Tuesday 26th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the government's announcement regarding school opening, and with time having now been spent considering plans and the details of how Templemoor will do this, I wanted to write to you to communicate how we intend to support our community and begin to welcome back our pupils.

Before I share our plans, I feel it is important to recognise and thank a number of people.

Firstly, I would like to thank you, our parent community. We recognise how challenging this period of time will have been for you. You will have all experienced this crisis with unique circumstances to overcome, and we know that the impact of Covid-19 will be long-lasting, but through everything, you have supported our school and your children wonderfully and this deserves recognition. Thank you.

Secondly, I want to thank our pupils, who have shown amazing maturity and kindness throughout this period. We have loved hearing from them via the home learning emails. We have heard wonderful things from so many parents amazed at how brilliantly children have coped with and managed with such huge change and disruption in their lives. Well done to everyone.

Finally, I want to thank our staff, who have done a simply fantastic job navigating their way through what is arguably the hardest change many of us will ever experience in our professional lives. Our staff have done an amazing job at becoming remote, posting videos to keep in touch, setting the continuation of learning at home, speaking with parents, preparing resources and revising planning for the summer term and beyond. They have done all of this in addition to supporting our daily childcare key worker provision since school partially closed on Friday 20th March, and will continue to do so. The Templemoor team have been exceptional and we would not have been able to do all that we have done, and are set to do, without their support. They have done all that they have done whilst managing their own personal challenges throughout this crisis, much like you, and I wanted to acknowledge how proud we are of everyone.

And now, to look to the future. Outlined in the next few pages (and in the attached parents' guide) is information that we hope clarifies our position and how we intend to begin to reopen our school. We want to stress that we cannot go into the government's reasoning about whether this is the right or wrong thing to do – what we can say is that we have been asked to reopen and have created a plan which we believe helps to keep our community as a whole as safe as is possible given the current circumstances. The government have produced multiple documents which are freely available to refer to via the DfE website should you want any further information. However we must stress that this is guidance, and with the support of Trafford Local Authority, we have set our own course for how the school will reopen subject to conditions being met.

As was highlighted in the letter from Jill McGregor, the Corporate Director of Children's Services, the council will enable schools, **where possible** to re-open on 8th June following

the half term break and have two further days to plan, prepare and train their staff in advance of children attending on 10th June. This will give our staff time to organise provision throughout school and offers the opportunity for the Senior Leadership Team to work with groups of staff to offer further training and support prior to the phased reopening of **Reception on Wednesday 10th June 2020.**

The headlines of our **reopening plans** are as follows:

- Children in Reception will return in groups of 11 and will remain in this 'bubble' for the duration of the school day. Despite the government's guidance of groups of up to 15 children, we believe these group sizes are too big in this first instance and we would be unable to promote safe social distancing within the classroom space that we have.
- Children will be taught by a teacher from within the Early Years phase, where possible.
- Currently, due to restrictions with spacing and staffing numbers (with some shielding), we are planning for Reception children to attend school on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Children have been off school a long time and we feel a phased return will be most beneficial to them, taking small steps. It will also give us more time to deep clean rooms, equipment, corridors and other spaces. These plans are **provisional**. They are **subject to change** based on demand, ongoing evaluation and dependent on updates from the government and local authority.
- Pupils will stay within their 'bubble' in class throughout the day, at break time, lunch time etc.
- Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to learn virtually at home.
- Our school kitchen will reopen and provide a packed lunch.
- We **will not** be able to provide before and after school clubs or extra childcare.

We will do everything we can to make school as nice an experience as possible for those children who do return (afterall, Templemoor prides itself on being a kind, caring and child orientated school, where well-being is paramount). However, we must be honest and realistic about what school will be like compared to how children will remember it. School will be very different and we ask that, should you choose to send your child back to school, you speak to your child about this so that they understand that there will be new rules and expectations about things like where they sit, who they see, who may teach them and who may or may not be a part of their 'bubble'. Children need to understand that adults will keep their distance and that resources, toys and equipment will be limited and in some cases, removed from classrooms. Children need to be prepared for the fact that they may not be with their friends, and they will not necessarily have their own class teacher. In order to help you prepare for their return, we have uploaded a video of what the indoor area looks like. This video can be found via the following link: <https://youtu.be/TMu-mWCNhQs>

Having heard from many parents in Reception, we know that some of you are undecided about sending your children back to school and were awaiting more information from us about what our plan looked like. Having read through the following information and the attached guide, we would very much appreciate it if you could let us know your final decision, which may include some parents deciding to change their mind from what has previously been sent. We fully respect any decision that you as parents make. This is not an easy decision and there will be no negative consequence should you choose to keep your children at home. In order for us to continue with our planning, please could **all Reception** parents now let us know of their intentions by **10am, Thursday 28th May 2020** by completing the following survey via:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LQBQKZZ>

We do not need parents in other year groups to indicate intentions at this time, but should there be updates to how school will reopen for other year groups in phases, we will be sure to keep you informed.

We have spent considerable time over the past two weeks thinking about not only the provision for children who will be returning to school but also the many children who will not be returning at this point. We all came into this profession because we wanted to work with children and we miss them terribly. Please be assured that for all the time and effort that we have put into our plans for the children returning to school we have also spent significant time and effort thinking about how we best meet the needs of and support the children who are at home. This includes children from the year groups who are in school but whose parents choose to keep their children at home and the children in the year groups who have not yet returned. The home learning activities and email contact therefore will continue.

We recognise that some parents will be disappointed that we are not initially opening our school to the extent that the government had requested. However, reducing the number of children in a bubble, in turn increases the numbers of staff and numbers of classrooms required for each year group to be in school and therefore impacts on our capacity to offer further places at this time. We hope that you understand that the decisions have been taken after extensive thought, a thorough risk assessment of what capacity our physical environment provides us with against the social distancing guidelines, reflection and discussion with our leadership teams, chair of governors, governing board and staff and for the very best of reasons.

We look forward to seeing you all soon and in the meantime, hope that you are all well. Thank you once again for your patience and continued support and for the kindness you have shown in the many emails we have received passing on your best wishes and thoughts. We have been humbled and touched. We will continue to ensure we regularly communicate with you to keep you informed of our plans in a continually changing situation.

Please continue to keep safe.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S Hodgson'.

Mr Hodgson and the Templemoor Team