



26th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

During the period of lockdown, as a Trust we have stringently followed the Government updates and guidelines and carefully assessed all of the information made available to us.

Throughout this period the health and safety of our pupils, staff and our local communities has remained our absolute priority and has been our clear focus for any decision-making.

The Independent SAGE Report 2, published late on Friday 22nd May describes how the risk of children becoming exposed or catching the virus is predicted to fall quickly over a week or two after 1st June.

The diagram below, taken from the report explains this:

1. Going to school

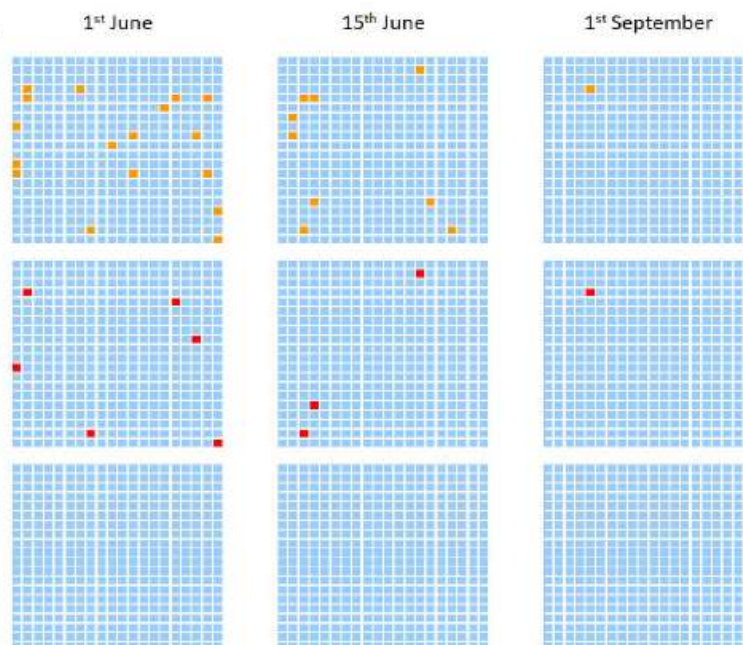
Each large square represents 400 primary school age children (one small square per child).

Out of every 400 non-infected children **starting back at school from ...**

Average number of children (orange) exposed to an infectious person

Average number of children (red) who then catch COVID-19

It would be extremely unlikely (less than 1 in a million chance) that a child would die



By delaying re-opening of schools for a further two weeks, approximately halves the risk of infection for children. It will also allow additional time to ensure adequate PPE

equipment for staff, and solutions to local challenges and testing procedures to be embedded.

The report also reminds us that schools don't operate in a vacuum and what happens in them will have wider ramifications for everyone within and outside of schools. We have a duty to protect our school communities as much as we can during this unprecedented time; a responsibility we take incredibly seriously.

With this in mind, our Trust Board have made the decision to **delay the opening of all of our schools until at least the 15th of June**. On Sunday evening, during the Prime Minister's announcement, he was very clear that the Government recognise not all schools will be in a position to reopen on 1st June.

Although we appreciate this decision may cause many of you difficulties regarding your childcare arrangements, we feel strongly that the safety of our staff, children, and our local communities far outweigh this.

From 1st June the following will be in place for all of our schools:

- **Children classed as vulnerable or whose parents/carers are key workers will continue to have a place in school.**
- Children working from home will continue to be set work via school websites.
- Free school meal vouchers will be issued to those families who are claiming them.

Over the coming days and weeks, we will communicate with you any further plans regarding the re-opening of our schools.

The Trustees and myself would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Amarjit Cheema OBE