

26 June 2020

Dear All,

There have been many announcements from the Government recently regarding COVID 19 and I am writing to let you know what that means for us at Broadstone First and Middle Schools.

As you are aware, the Government has stated that schools will not open over the Summer holiday and that we are to expect schools to open as normal in September, for all pupils. Therefore, our schools will be closed from 17th July until 7th September. We understand that some families will require child care and therefore will be writing to you early next week with a number of options for, and more information about, child care over the Summer break.

Whilst school will be closed to all pupils, there will be much going on for us. There is building and site work to be completed during this time that cannot be easily done when the site is in use. Staff will be involved in planning and preparing for the "Recovery Curriculum" to ensure the children progress as quickly as possible when they all return. We will be providing you with ideas and activities for you to use, should you wish to, over the summer. These will help prepare your children for returning to school.

But I wanted to say a massive thank you to you all for all you have done to help your children keep learning throughout this lock down. There has been much talk of a "gap" and how children may be "behind" but I know that so many of you have been doing all you can to ensure your children are doing as much learning as possible. There are children who have flourished academically, or socially or emotionally, due to the time they have spent with you. This cannot be underestimated. Yes – there will be "gaps" in knowledge but every child will no doubt come back to school with insights and understanding they didn't have when they left.

And it should be remembered that this is how it is when they come to us in the first place. When your children join us in Reception, they come with prior learning that is unique and different. This situation is really very similar. The "gaps" our youngsters may return with can't be identified until they are with us. To try and sort these out before the children come back to school isn't practical or likely to be successful. It is an educators craft to be able to identify these gaps and get them "plugged" as soon as possible - our teachers and teaching assistants have been thinking about this already and are busy preparing for it. This preparation will continue over the Summer break.

As ever, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, Rhonda Moore (CEO) on rmoore@castlemanacademytrust.co.uk

Again, thank you for your support during lockdown. Your understanding and patience has been hugely appreciated and we are so looking forward to having all the children back with us. However, as expected, the return will need to be as safe as it can possibly be and we will be planning and working over the summer break to ensure this. There will be more information in due course.

Thank you again.

Yours faithfully



Rhonda Moore
Chief Executive Officer