

9 June 2020

Dear All,

Firstly, thank you to you all for your support of our timetable for the wider opening of both schools. I do appreciate that the change of plan caused difficulties for some of you and we were really grateful for your patience and understanding. Thank you also, for your understanding and support around the processes we've put in place. Those children who have returned have been a credit to you and us. Their common sense and excellent behaviour meant that the return went very smoothly.

I do understand that there is a lot of information coming to you. We try to keep communications to a minimum but with this situation, there is a LOT to share with you. To save sending you lots of letters we try to put all the important information in one place so it's vital that you read to the end so that you don't miss out on anything really important!

This week, working with a relatively smaller increase numbers in the first instance, we have had the opportunity to test our systems and processes with regard to hygiene and social distancing. We're really pleased with the results.

The information we are receiving from the Government and Health Agencies has been much improved recently and has given us greater reassurance about infection rates. There has been some talk of the infection rate rising in the South West, however, this increase was not a locally based one.

The Board met last night and considered data and information we have received over the past week with regard to COVID 19 in our locality. Given this information, we feel that we are able to further **phase the return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children.**

By phasing the return of these children, we will be able to ensure our systems are robust and safe enough for more children as the numbers in school increase. We have chosen to increase by one year group per day on each site.

Therefore, we invite those children in

Reception and Year 6 to attend school on **Wednesday, 10 June.**

Year 1, we invite you to start attending on **Thursday, 11 June.**

Please follow the instructions given to you on the original letter explaining the procedures for coming in to school. If you've misplaced this, please do get in touch with the school office and they will be able to help you. Don't forget the videos that are there to help you! Go to <http://www.catlive.co.uk/cat-bubble-videos/> to get more information about how things are working at school so that you can return as safely as possible.

Please remember that the attendance of children at school relies on keeping infection rates low. Should there be a spike in the area, we may need to close. We are at capacity with regard to staffing and should a "Bubble Lead" become ill or need to self isolate, that bubble will have to be closed until the staff member is well enough to return. We cannot combine bubbles as this might increase the risks of cross contamination and further infections.

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The announcements made by the Government overnight regarding the return of other year groups needs careful attention. We are already at capacity staffing wise with the numbers expected in school. However, we're planning for the future and know that the children will want to know what lies ahead for them – particularly for next year. Staff are already thinking about possible transition activities we can do before September and have been working on Transition Learning Projects. We will be in touch about these in early to mid-July. At the moment, it's most important that we ensure the phased return in place is as safe as possible. Once this is settled and becomes routine, we will start to talk with you about next year and any possibility of other year groups returning.

Again, thank you so very much for all your understanding at this time. The support and generosity of the staff, you as families and the Governors has meant that we have been able to transition into this new way of working more smoothly and effectively. The children have been wonderful – please let them know how proud we are of them.

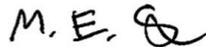
As ever, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing Rhonda (Moore) at rmoores@castlemanacademytrust.co.uk

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Rhonda Moore
Chief Executive Officer



Mark Grigsby
Chair of Trust