



Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since the start of June it has been wonderful to welcome back so many more children to our schools in addition to the critical worker and vulnerable children who have been attending throughout the lockdown. Now Brooke Weston Trust schools, like all others, are awaiting guidance from the government regarding the rules under which our schools can operate in the autumn term.

All ten of our schools have remained open every weekday since the start of the lockdown, including during bank holidays, over the Easter holiday period and the latest half term. In line with government guidance we will not be open to children during the summer holiday period. Our schools will re-start on the dates published in their calendars. The precise details of what the re-start arrangements will be are not yet available, but we will continue to communicate with you over the days and weeks ahead as things become clearer. I am mindful that during this time of uncertainty, you are best served by us informing you of facts and our actual plans, not constantly sharing rumour and conjecture. This has been our approach so far and will continue.

All our school staff are working hard to ensure we have highly effective arrangements in place to help children catch up with lost learning in the autumn and the flexibility to adapt when we receive further guidance on any changes in timeframe or content for next year's public examinations. We are excited by the quality of our plans and the passion of our staff to make sure no child is left behind. As a Trust we have devoted significant additional resources towards next year's curriculum delivery both in school and at home. I believe you will be pleased when your school shares the details of this project with you soon.

Finally, a word on free school meals. As you will have seen in the national media, the government will now fund free school meals for eligible families over the summer. We are switching to the government's preferred voucher scheme in order to do this and further details of how to use this are being sent out by schools at the moment. If you are uncertain if your children qualify for this support, please do check the guidance which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> or ask your school who will be very pleased to help.

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the last few months. We pride ourselves on doing the best we can for every child and it has been frustrating to receive so many last-minute decisions and changes of policy direction without warning. Nevertheless, we are looking forward now with optimism and determination to provide excellent education and care for every one of our children.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Campbell (CEO, Brooke Weston Trust)