

Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers & Infinity Families,

I would like to begin this letter with a huge “Thank you” to all of you for your understanding, patience and support throughout the course of the Covid-19 pandemic. Your confidence in our schools and the Trust to make the right decisions for your children has been greatly appreciated and has made a very challenging time, much easier. The kindness you have shown to our staff in your messages of support have meant a great deal and I know they would like to pass on their thanks to you.

I wanted to write to give you an update on the current position of our schools and our plans for the remainder of the summer term.

As I have previously mentioned, Government guidance to schools has been inconsistent, often provided too late to be helpful and at times, overwhelming. As I write this we have received more than 100 updates and pieces of guidance to try and implement and it continues to grow daily. Therefore, school leaders across the country have had to make decisions independently in the best interests of their pupils, parents and staff. The current arrangements in our schools is that we have established “bubbles” of children and staff who are not allowed to mix or share spaces/resources. Some of these bubbles contain Key Worker/ Vulnerable children whilst others are made up of groups of Year 6 pupils. We have limited the numbers in these bubbles based on the physical space available in our classrooms considering the original 2m social distancing guidance. At many of our sites we have seen the number of key worker children increase and at the time of writing, many of our schools are at capacity. This is due to having limited space to bring back any more children or because staff are shielding/ vulnerable and therefore cannot lead groups of children. Throughout this time, we have worked hard to continue to keep in regular contact with parents through phone calls, social media, websites and emails. As well as this, we have worked to ensure that children at home are able to access online learning provision. Together, our schools and families have made it work over the last few months and that is a remarkable achievement of which we should all be extremely proud.

Many of you will have seen that the Government has announced that social distancing is going to be reduced from 2m to 1m+ on the 4th July. However, the impact of this on schools is not significant as even reducing from 2m to 1m+ does not allow our group sizes to increase greatly. We may have spaces for a few more key worker/children or Y6 pupils in the existing bubbles but the changes do not allow us to increase pupil numbers sufficiently within a bubble to be able to combine some groups and create enough space to bring any other year groups

back. Also, the staff that we have shielding will need to continue to do so until mid-August. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that we will be in a position to bring any other year groups back into school this academic year. I know this is not ideal and we all want the children back to school as soon as possible but whilst the current guidance is in place it is just not possible. As I mentioned in my previous letter, please try to avoid comparing what is happening in your child's school with what is happening in another. Each school is dealing with a unique set of circumstances based on their classroom sizes, building layout, toilet facilities and available staffing.

In order to try and offer all children the opportunity to see their current teacher before the end of the school year and meet their new teacher we will be closing our schools for all pupils on Thursday 16th July. We will then be inviting children and their parents into our schools for a socially-distanced conversation either on Friday 17th, Monday 20th or Tuesday 21st July. We want to be able to offer this to every pupil hence the need to close the school so staff are available. Your school will contact you and let you know the specific arrangements for this but we are hoping this will be something that the children can look forward to and be a positive way to end the school year. In line with Government guidance none of our schools will be open to any pupils during the summer holidays.

We are still awaiting clarity and guidance from the Government about how schools will operate in September but they have expressed a desire to see all children back in school. Therefore, across the Infinity family of schools we are working on the assumption that all children will return to school in September for the start of the school year as normal on Thursday 3rd September. If this were to change we will of course inform you straight away. We have all got our fingers (and toes) crossed that we can be back together in our school families as normal for the next academic year.

If you have any specific questions about your child and our plans for the next few weeks or the new school year, please contact your school office directly - we are always more than happy to help!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Booth', written in a cursive style.

Gavin Booth
Chief Executive Officer