Frettenham Primary School Hainford Primary School Horsford Primary School Old Catton Junior School White Woman Lane School St. Faiths' Primary School



Ashley Best-White Executive Headteacher

10 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

COVID-19 Update – Prime Minister's Announcement

I'm sure like me, many of you will have watched the Prime Minister's address to the nation this evening.

You will have heard the Prime Minister indicating that the government believes it **may** be in a position to implement a phased re-opening of schools from 1 June, starting with pupils in reception, year one and year six. This is part of the government's conditional plan, which it says will remain under regular review.

We want to get more pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. Our first priority has to be, and will remain, the safety of everyone in the school community.

The government has told us that their decisions are being led by the scientific evidence. I think it is reasonable for the government to share and explain the evidence it is relying on, especially when it is basing such vital decisions on it. As of this evening, we are still waiting for that clear explanation.

Any plan to increase the number of pupils in schools has to be practicable and manageable. In many cases it will be physically impossible to bring back the number of pupils being suggested by the Prime Minister this evening in all of our schools and maintain any sense of social distancing, this is especially the case in our infant sites and small schools.

I know that you, like us, will have a range of questions. However, like you, I have only just seen the announcement and at this stage I cannot answer your questions. I am waiting to receive more information from government about what this means for our schools and how to keep our workplaces safe. So in the meantime, please do no contact schools with questions following this announcement.

In the short-term, nothing has changed. Despite the Prime Minister encouraging more people to return to work, the schools remain closed to all except those pupils who have already been offered a place. I will provide further information in the coming days and weeks once I am able to do so.

Best wishes and stay safe,

A. D. Best-White

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