



Dear Parents and Staff,

It has now been just over two months since the government asked schools to close for the majority of pupils. Since then, your school has continued to provide places for key worker children and the most vulnerable, even during the school holidays.

As you know, the government has since asked all schools to plan for a possible wider opening of schools, for limited age groups, from the 1st of June. In order to prepare for this possibility, your school's headteacher and leadership team have been carefully assessing all the risks involved for children, staff and the community. They have used both the Government guidelines ([Actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020](#)) and the joint Union Checklist ([Planning-guide-primary-schools](#)) to draw up a comprehensive risk assessment to manage and minimise the risk of coronavirus transmission. This risk assessment will be posted on the school's website in advance of the wider opening.

As a Trust, we have supported all our schools by meeting regional union representatives, local authority officers and other trust leaders to understand and share best practice. Furthermore, because each Ivy school is unique in its physical layout and staffing, Matthew Kleiner-Mann, the Trust Leader, has visited all schools to best understand their risk assessment in situ. Each school is planning to open up in a slightly different manner based on their individual circumstances. Your school's plans will be communicated to you in advance.

The Trust Board met last Thursday in order to fully understand and interrogate the perceived risks involved in welcoming back more children and the specific risk management arrangements at each school. Following intensive questioning and scrutiny, Trustees approved the Trust-wide risk assessment and the specific plans for the wider re-opening of each school.

None of this would be possible if it were not for the school's key workers who have worked so hard in the last two months, keeping the school open for vulnerable and key worker children, as well as providing excellent home learning experiences for the majority of children. I would like to thank all staff for their ongoing commitment to children's education in these unprecedented times.

In the coming half term, we are asking more staff to come into school where they can.

Staff who are themselves extremely clinically vulnerable or live with someone who is in the shielded group will not be expected to return to work. They, along with staff who are unable, for a variety of reasons, to return to work in the short-term, will be supporting their colleagues and children at home through remote learning via Google Classroom. Both these groups are still fundamental to the staffing team and I thank them for their commitment at what must be a very difficult time.

Lastly, I would like to extend thanks to parents. Helping children learn at home while juggling other responsibilities and the difficulties of lockdown has, I know, been very challenging.

Many parents I know will be debating whether or not to send their children back into school. I hope the risk assessment will explain the measures the school has put into place. Home learning via Google Classroom will continue for children not in the targeted year groups and for all those in the targeted years whose parents decide not to send them back for the time being.

Ivy is a family of schools. We work closely together to support each other. Never before has this been so important than in these difficult times.

Best wishes to you and your families,

Deborah Thompson,

Chair of Ivy Learning Trust