Dear families;

Over the past week we have heard the Prime Minister announce to the country that all pupils ‘will’ be returning to school in September - this is a change from the earlier statement which was ‘it’s the Government’s intention’. As yet we have received no additional details or guidance from the DFE or wider Government on the practicalities. In this instance we will continue to work behind the scenes to ready ourselves for the new academic year - in order to ensure that we are fully ready to start back with all children in school we are planning to do the following things (although these are subject to change as a result of additional Government announcements which may occur over the coming weeks):

• The official return date for schools is 1st September 2020 which is a Tuesday - in looking ahead we have decided to make an early decision that we will not be welcoming children back onsite until Monday 7th September. The additional four days that we plan to take at the start of the year will allow us to: provide staff with renewed training to ensure that we are all able to keep all 30 children in each class as safe as possible, reformat the classrooms to cater for 30 children whilst also allowing for as much social distancing as possible, train staff on how we will operate a recovery curriculum to ensure children get the best start back at school and review safeguarding procedures. The four days at the start of term will allow for every school in the Trust to be as prepared as they can for reopening and we wanted to give you as much advance notice as possible.

• Rebuilding the curriculum - a lot has happened over the past 6 months across the world including Coronavirus, Black Lives Matter, and increasing awareness of how humans are influencing climate change and so now seemed like the right time to address these issues and many others within our day to day curriculum. We will also naturally be building increased support for mental health and wellbeing and ensuring children are equipped to deal with challenges throughout their lives.

• Invest in technology to ensure that if we do enter another period of lockdown in the future we are able to build and improve on the home learning that was provided over this lockdown period. To date we have purchased two IRIS cameras for each school in order to allow us to film lessons on a greater scale - we envisage that we will be launching this approach in October.

As we exit lockdown and return to normality we want you to know that we intend to work harder than ever to ensure that your children get the best education possible across the Trust and so we will be seeking to improve what we do and innovate further.

A letter regarding the training days will be sent out to all families early next week.

Thanks for your ongoing support.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Steve Taylor
Executive HT
Robin Hood MAT