

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

You will have seen from recent ministerial announcements and media coverage that the Department for Education (DfE) has an intention to partially reopen primary schools after the half term break if it is safe to do so.

Westcountry Schools Trust is working closely with our Local Authority partners and the Regional School's Commissioners Office as we interpret the national guidance and consider it in relation to our local context. We are beginning to plan arrangements for how we can safely begin to bring some children back into school. The DfE has outlined its preference for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return in the first instance and we are now considering as to what extent this is possible in our schools.

I wish to reassure you that as we plan for such a partial return we are doing so by carefully considering the risks, how we mitigate them and how, above all, we keep our children and staff safe. This could mean that the days in school will feel different for the children – they will be in smaller class sizes (maximum 15) and may be in different classrooms to the ones which they are familiar. Children will also be discouraged from mixing with children from other teaching groups. We will also ask for your support by requiring that you do not come into school and support social distancing by being 2 metres apart at school drop-off.

I am now pleased to inform you that Westcountry Schools Trust primary schools are taking all steps to partially reopen safely with effect from Monday 8th June.

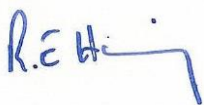
Westcountry Schools Trust secondary schools will not be partially reopening on Monday 1st June. We will of course update you when this changes.

In the meantime our 'Edu-care provision' will continue for all children (both primary and secondary) of critical key workers (that meet the criteria) and vulnerable children. This will continue, in the first instance at least, to run alongside the partial reopening of our primary schools. However, through the planned half term break, Edu-care will only be available on Wednesday 27th May and Thursday 28th May.

This letter hopes to keep you informed of the general picture of development and I will write again early next week with an updated position. In the meantime I am sure you will also hear from our individual Headteachers on how their plans are progressing and how the partial reopening might look in their school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes



Rob Haring
CEO Westcountry Schools Trust

STRONGER TOGETHER... EVERY CHILD IN A GREAT SCHOOL