

LINK ACADEMY TRUST

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Wednesday 17th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Arrangements for School provision until the end of the summer term, Friday 17th July.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the brilliant work you are doing liaising with the staff in all our schools to provide the best education possible in these very difficult times. I would like to reassure you that we are constantly reviewing the school situation as we try to provide the very best, we can for all our pupils. As you are aware we opened as requested by the Government promptly on 1st June for the designated year groups and key workers every day in all our schools, having asked staff to spend a large proportion of their half term preparing the school to be safe to open.

We wish to continue to provide opportunities for as many children as we can going forward.

It is with this in mind that the Link Academy Trust intend to make adjustments to the schools opening arrangements for the remainder of the term. We are intending to ensure that any parent wishing to allow their child to attend school can do so within the arrangements for their particular school, albeit for a short time, before we finally break up for the summer holidays. In order to do this, we need to change our arrangements.

I understand that some parents may still have real misgivings about their children returning to school, I wholeheartedly understand this and repeat that it is parent's choice and there are no formal consequences should you decide that this is not the time for your child to return.

The Link Academy Trust arrangements for the end of term will therefore be:

- Pre- school, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will finish their summer term attendance on 3rd July. This will enable the school to welcome other year groups in order to give them one week of being back at school to share their online learning, discuss their progress with teachers and meet up with their friends. It will help teachers direct them to maintain some small level of learning during the summer and ensure teachers are able to prepare their Autumn Term planning with prioritised learning in place. Two learning bubble spaces will be prepared over the weekend.
- The week beginning 6th July each school will welcome into school two of the year groups that have not had access to any time in school to date. It will be a combination of two cohorts from the following year groups 2, 3, 4 and 5- in order to support their transition into their new classes for September. Your school will let you know which as they will be chosen to maximize the availability of space and staff.
- The following week (beginning 13th July) the remaining two year groups will be offered a week in school, again the space will have been prepared for them with their safety in mind.
- Throughout the remainder of the term Key Worker and Vulnerable children will continue to attend in their bubble.
- All Link Academy Trust Schools will close on Friday 17th July.

We are very aware that the schools across our Trust are all unique and have very different characteristics, they also are very different in size, capacity and numbers of staff. Academy Heads have therefore been given the authority to be as flexible as they can be in their arrangements, this may enable them to retain some/ one of the year groups currently in school if they have the required capacity.

Online learning provision will continue for all pupils not actually in school.

We obviously would love to open our schools to all children, but we need to ensure everyone's safety- it is of paramount importance.

Academy Heads are best placed to decide whether it is safe to retain any of the current year groups throughout the period up to the end of term and where they can I am sure they will do this, however they must remain within the Government guidelines, including no more than 15 pupils in a bubble. The Academy Head of your child's school will make sure you are aware of any differences in arrangements as soon as those decisions have been made. Thank you for supporting us, as always, especially in these difficult times when decisions such as these are so hard to make.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your comments section in the online learning survey which have been thoroughly scrutinised as we try to further improve our provision in the short term over the remainder of the term and in the long term in preparation for September. It is so important that we provide the best we can for our children, we are committed to ensuring this is the case.

I would, once again, like to thank you all for your support and the positive attitude you have shown to our staff and schools. I will keep you all informed of actions that we will be taking and provision for September as soon as we have any further guidelines from the Government.

Rest assured we will be doing the very best we can for our schools, stakeholders and the community.

Kind regards,

Nicky

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