

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

I wanted to update you with **changes to our proposed arrangements** for after half term following on from two letters that were issued by Birmingham City Council yesterday afternoon (letters sent via separate text message) and also the discussion that took place at our Board of Directors meeting, also yesterday afternoon.

In the letters written by Birmingham City Council (BCC), they have outlined some of the concerns that we share and I am aware that many of you also share, with reopening our schools to more children from June 1<sup>st</sup>.

In particular, there is concern over the coronavirus (COVID-19) among some ethnic groups and the risk being significantly higher than that of those of White ethnicity. Across our schools within Leigh Trust we have a high proportion of Black, Asian minority ethnic (BAME) children, parents and staff and we have to ensure that we do what is best for the whole school community and well-being of all when considering opening schools further.

In the letter from BCC to Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, it states;

*'We must however raise concerns where we believe that your guidance has so far failed to address the anxieties of Birmingham schools and families, namely the scientific advice on which your decision was based and the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 outbreak is having on BAME communities.'*

In the letter from BCC to school leaders it states;

*'We trust that headteachers will make the right decisions for their school communities. No school leader wants their school to be closed for longer than is absolutely necessary but all will put the **safety of their pupils and staff first when deciding when their school can start to admit more pupils.**'*

**Leigh Trust**

Chief Executive Officer:

Mrs Julie Greenwood

Chair of The Board of Directors:

Mr David Griffiths

Leigh Trust

C/O St Pauls Centre, 405b Belchers Lane

Bordesley Green, Birmingham, B9 5SY

Email: [enquiry@leightrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@leightrust.co.uk)

We have therefore decided that we will continue to have the first two days back after the half term holiday as training days. From Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 onwards, **Alston Primary will only be open for Key Worker children and vulnerable families.** Alston will operate for these families in a similar way to how Leigh Hub has been running since lockdown.

During the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June, staff will be coming back to work in small groups and will be looking at everything that is needed to be done, to make sure that it is safe for when larger numbers of children eventually return back to school.

**We will be waiting for further guidance at the end of May from the Government and Birmingham City Council before making a decision about how we are going to proceed from June 8<sup>th</sup> in terms of offering provision for other year groups.**

I do understand that we are giving you different information to what has been previously provided - my sincere apologies for this. We are constantly being given new information from the Government and Birmingham City Council and we need to reassess whether we think it is safe and right to open schools wider, other than for Key Worker families and vulnerable children.

We will be in touch with you once we have further information.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Greenwood  
CEO of Leigh Trust



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