



The Learning for Life Partnership

Southbank Avenue, Shavington, Crewe, CW25BP
CEO: Mr D Thomas
Tel: 01270 661527



21st May 2020

RE: Phased reopening of schools after 1st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share with you the position on opening the schools within The Learning for Life Partnership for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The safety of your children and our staff is the absolute focus as we plan for the schools to begin to reopen to greater numbers of children. Yesterday Cheshire East Local Authority released a statement regard how they expect all schools within Cheshire East to open for these children following 1st June.

In the letter attached from Jacky Forster, the Director of Education and Skills you will see that yesterday the vote was taken by the authority to support the reopening of the schools as the Department of Education has guided us to do. The government guidance has always stated that schools will open for these year groups if it is safe to do so. The government have also said that they will make that decision on the 28th May. Cheshire East Local Authority feel that a June the 1st plan is too soon. They have proposed that all maintained, church and academy primary schools that educate the children of the borough open in a staged manner from June 15th, as long as it is safe for this to happen.

When we began sending out information last week we talked about the possibility of a 1st June phased reopening based upon the government guidance. At that time there had been no communication from Cheshire East regarding their position. With the scientific advice currently not available to say that increasing the number of pupils in the school significantly is safe and the decision by the government not being made until the 28th May the additional time will allow all involved more time to plan and put into place all the necessary changes to classroom layouts, furniture and any healthcare equipment required. It will also give more time for our staff and parents to understand the new way of working and more time for the scientific data to emerge that supports the safe opening of the schools in our locality.

Yesterday the board of Trustees for The Learning for Life Partnership and myself met and agreed that all 5 schools within the partnership will now follow the local authority's directive. This was not an easy decision for the Trustees to make and a great deal of consideration and thought went into it. Please understand that from today all of the schools will make this timing their key priority, and we are expecting further guidance, particularly around how we keep our youngest children safe, over the coming days. We will communicate with you further the specific details of each school's pattern of opening as the measures we will be adopting will take some time to get used to. The key worker provision will still continue to operate as normal.

We are working tirelessly to get our plans finalised and many hours of Senior Leadership Team time across the partnership has been spent in working through every aspect to make



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the return of your children as safe as possible. We ask you to understand that many elements are beyond our control and therefore subject to some change but as always, as a Trust, the safety of our children, families, staff and communities come first.

Yours faithfully

Dan Thomas and John Clough
CEO and Chair of Trustees