

Wednesday 17th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to report that the wider reopening of our schools has continued to go successfully. Around 50% of our Year 6 and Year 1 pupils are now back in our schools and are enjoying their new bubbles. They join the Key Worker children who have been in school since March when the lockdown began. Thank you to the staff, children and parents for observing the new social distancing measures that we have had to put in place. This has not been easy but your combined focus on safety and care has meant that things have been relatively smooth so far. One gentle reminder is for you to arrive punctually within your pickup and drop off time slots. These are staggered by 5 minutes for each bubble and arriving early or late causes congestion and adds an undue pressure at these times.

We have again reviewed our measures and concluded that:

- children are happy and learning
- our full risk assessment has been positively reviewed
- there is no significant rise in incidents of coronavirus across the school
- staffing and room capacity allows wider reopening.

As a result, all three schools are able to welcome the next year group (Reception) back to school. More details will be communicated to parents of Reception children in a separate letter.

Following a successful campaign by England footballer Marcus Rashford, the government announced yesterday, a £120 million COVID-19 summer food fund. The scheme will support children who are eligible for free school meals. We will provide updates on this when further details are available.

If your circumstances have changed over the last few months, your child may now be eligible for free school meals. Please consider if you are receiving any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Please register at [Hertfordshire Free School Meals](#). If you need support, please email the school and they will advise you what to do next.

Lastly, Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, said last week that the government will be “working to bring all children back to school in September”. Additionally, the Prime Minister has referenced summer ‘catch up’ provision and there has been much discussion in the media around what this may look like. We all want our children to return in September as prepared as they possibly can be, but with just 4 full weeks of the school term left, we await government guidance and information about funding before we can consider and implement any plans to do this. When we know more, we will share this with you.

In the meantime, our staff continue to provide home learning activities which the vast majority of children are accessing to a very high standard. Please continue to share their hard work via, email, Twitter and Facebook.

Thank you for your support.

James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
Jess Bruce – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School
Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School