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www.twhf.org.uk

21 August 2020

Returning to school in September

Dear parent or carer,

Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, your child's wellbeing and safety has been one of the most significant focal points of everything we have done.

We have endeavoured to keep you informed of the Trust's thinking, aware of the next steps we intend to take, and up to date with any news from the Department for Education or central government.

This will not change as we move into a new school year.

To that end, I wanted to outline the Trust's expectations and support for you ahead of schools starting during the first week in September.

The truth is that the Government, and probably most of society, expects us to be open from the first week and to resume as much of a normal school life as possible, while taking every precaution to make sure you and our pupils are safe and well.

To make this possible, we have undertaken a number of measures:

- Each school has created a return to work plan which details risk assessments, processes, procedures, and systems which will be in place at your child's school from day one. These will restrict potential cross-contamination and will ensure that we reduce the threat of COVID-19 in every way possible.
- Staff in schools will model the behaviours we want to see in our pupils and students, sticking to social distancing and self-hygiene regimes put into place by leaders at each school. However, as parents and carers, you can also help us by emphasising the need for your child to do their bit by following the new rules and ways of working in their school.
- We have enhanced cleaning routines, and site staff will have ensured that every space in every school has undergone a thorough clean over the summer in readiness for your return.
- Your child's headteachers and principals have been given clear guidance about individually risk-assessing vulnerable colleagues who might have underlying health issues, be pregnant, or who are part of our BAME community. They will also support you if you believe your child is vulnerable in any way.

As a result of the measures we are putting in place, we believe that, while we cannot eradicate every risk, we have worked hard to minimise it as much as possible. With this in mind, it is important that every child returns to school from the first day of the new term in September, at the right time, and ready to learn.

I absolutely understand that, in asking you to send your child back to school, there may be some anxieties and uncertainties. Every school will do its best to keep you informed of what is happening and how your child is doing, but if you have any questions or concerns, please do not be afraid to ask either.

In writing this letter, I am hoping that it will help to ease your concerns, but we must recognise that as the circumstances have changed, the conditions and expectations we saw before the holidays have also changed. It is important that every child who is able to return to school does so, and that we collectively share the changes and new ways of working that we will need to adopt in order to stay safe.

In order to explain these measures in more detail and to answer your questions, I will be hosting a live Crowdcast event at 2pm on Wednesday 26th August. You can register a place through the following link : <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/reopening-schools>.

Before your child returns, each school will be holding training days where all new policies and measures will be made clear to staff at a local level. Please therefore check the exact date of return for your child's school. In the meantime, there is still a week of holidays to go, and I really hope you can make the most of it with your family and friends.

Take care and fond regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick". Below the signature is a horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right side, resembling a stylized underline or a flourish.

Dr N R Capstick O.B.E
CEO TWHF