

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that this letter finds you all safe and well.

I am writing to keep you as informed as possible regarding the potential wider reopening of WeST schools. The government has for some time stated its hope of schools reopening from Monday 1st June when it is safe to do so. A major factor in this process is the government determining that the five conditions that it set have been satisfied.

We have been in receipt of various government guidance documents and have been actively liaising with external partners such as Local Authorities and trade union representation.

As I write, the government have delayed the publication of guidance for the wider reopening of secondary schools. We now believe that this guidance might not be forthcoming until after the Prime Minister's public address which is expected on Thursday 28th May.

Rest assured, however, that we have been working hard in the background to prepare for a partial and phased reopening of WeST schools for when it is safe to do so. We have produced a 'Toolkit' and are completing, as you would expect, detailed risk assessments.

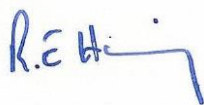
We are working towards the wider reopening of WeST primary schools with effect from Monday 8th June with a focus on reintroducing Year 6 and Year 1 children back into school. Each Headteacher will start to share their plans when it is appropriate to do so. Those children not in the year groups invited back into school will continue to be supported by schools with their home learning.

WeST secondary schools are now hoping to reopen to Year 10 students in a phased fashion from Monday 15th June but, as mentioned above, this date is extremely tentative since the Department for Education is yet to release its official guidance. Individual Headteachers will keep you informed of their school's intentions in due course.

I once again confirm that Educare will only be available on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th May over the half term break. However, we will return to our 'normal' Educare routines from Monday 1st June. It is worth noting that as our primary schools do reopen to Year 6 and Year 1 children, as a consequence of social distancing and using multiple classrooms per class, our capacity for Educare places will be more limited in some of our primary schools. I ask, therefore, that you only use Educare when it is absolutely crucial to do so.

I shall write again when we return from the half term break and we have received clear direction from government.

Best wishes



Rob Haring
CEO Westcountry Schools Trust

STRONGER TOGETHER... EVERY CHILD IN A GREAT SCHOOL