



13 May 2020

Rachel Howie
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you in these very strange and difficult times as the CEO of the Trust that your child's school is part of – The Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust. Firstly, I would like to thank you for the support you have been giving to your child's school as the staff do their best to provide for children who are in school and those who are at home. I recognise the challenges as well as joys of having your children at home. I would like to share this short video with you to thank you for all you are having to manage and deal with
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTnylCpSVMA&feature=emb_logo

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on Monday that we are moving into the next phase of the crisis and identified that, if the infection rate continues as it has been, schools will open to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. As you can imagine, this will take a great deal of planning and preparation, the safety of your children and the staff being the priority.

Every school across the country is currently making the same preparations but it is important to note that every school is different. For example, the number of pupils, the size and layout of the classrooms and building, the number of staff that are available to work, the number of entrances and exits to the site – the list goes on. This means that when your school explains their plan, it may not look the same as another school down the road. This is entirely right as one plan will not fit all schools.

Your headteacher will be in touch, if they have not already, to find out if you intend to send your child to school when it opens to more Year groups. I would ask you to be patient as they then undertake risk assessments, create timetables and reorganise the building to be ready for more children. Many of the questions you may have right now, they are not able to answer because the government has not yet clarified the guidance. Please be assured in all our planning across the Trust we will be ensuring we do the best we possibly can in very difficult circumstances. It is important to make you aware that, as the government have written in the guidance to schools, it is not reasonable to expect that our youngest children will be able to socially distance. However, I can reassure you that all the recommended hygiene and cleaning practices will be in place.



Finally, I am very proud of the way all the staff at your child's school have responded to the government's expectations – just as many other workers are. On May 20 it is Thank a Teacher day and we are supporting this – you might like to get involved to thank a teaching assistant, headteacher, teacher, member of the office staff or anyone else working at your school.

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/>

Thank you again for your continued support – stay safe and well

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rachel Howie

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