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15th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am getting in touch to update you on arrangements for re-opening schools, following the Prime Minister's address to the country and guidance published by the Department for Education this week.

The current planning is that primary schools may be re-opening from 1 June for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, and that secondary school may be able to open for pupils in Year 10 and 12 (which we do not have at Astrea Academy Sheffield). The guidance also indicates that the Government hopes that all primary children will return to school before the summer holidays. **This is very much dependent on progress in containing the Coronavirus continuing and the Government being clear that certain conditions have been met. Most importantly though, for now, nothing has changed.** The children of key workers, as well as any children who are vulnerable, will continue to attend Byron Wood, as they have in recent weeks.

To be clear, the definition of key workers has not changed. For all other children, we will continue to provide distance learning to minimise disruption to children's learning.

We are aware that parents of students in years 7 & 8 will be left uncertain about the next steps for their children. We remain committed to providing home learning resources as we have since the lockdown began. However, please do bear with us as staff may have to juggle providing online learning whilst maintaining face to face support in school for pupils in primary school years. We are regularly reviewing our home learning packages and parents should continue to check the website each week, to see the updates.

We are currently working through the detail of the guidance from the Department for Education, which is being updated daily. Over the coming weeks we will be preparing for the phased re-opening in line with the Government announcement.

This will include:



- ★ ★ Arrangements to help ensure social distancing within school – this will include class and group sizes being halved, arrangements for drop off and pick up, staggering break and lunchtimes, use of outdoor space
- ★ ★ Travel arrangements to and from school in line with further guidance expected from Department for Education
- ★ ★ Catering arrangements.
- ★ ★ Deep clean of the school and the cleaning rota once we are open.

We will ensure there is strict adherence to what the Government call ‘the hierarchy of controls’ in school, namely:

- ★ ★ Minimising contact with unwell individuals (please keep your child home if they or any other member of the household is ill with Covid-19 like symptoms)
- ★ ★ The encouragement of regular hand cleaning
- ★ ★ Good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it)
- ★ ★ Regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- ★ ★ Minimising contact and mixing of children

As always, the safety of your children and our staff remain our number one priority and will be the key driver in any decisions we take.

We will be in touch with you as soon as we have more details, and setting out progress on our preparations.

In the coming days we will also be in touch with parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1, to begin to get an idea of potential numbers of children from eligible years possibly coming into school at the beginning of June – please do ensure your contact details held with the academy are the most up to date, and if you see a call from a withheld number, please do answer.

As ever, if you have any questions please do get in touch by emailing info@astreasheffield.org

Yours sincerely,

Kim Wilson | **Executive Principal**