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CEO: Mrs C Dickinson

5th June 2020

Dear Families,

We are pleased to say that the first week of reopening with key worker families in bubbles, in their own academies, has gone well. There has been a large increase in key worker children and we are pleased that we had made the decision to take the pace of introducing children back in slowly. This has supported both staff and children to understand the new format of school. In meetings this week with other heads and CEOs in our local area, this increase in key worker numbers is reflected across the County. The feedback from staff and parents has been that our approach has been right for our communities.

The restrictions that have been laid down for us by the government, with strict up to 15 in a bubble with space to socially distance, means that we have limited capacity in each of our academies. This means that it is essential that when we open to the next year group, if you wish for your child to return, you will need to tell us **immediately**. Once the school is at capacity, we will not be able to open up to further year groups or even extra children within a year group already offered spaces. We are not allowed to change bubbles and so they will have been set.

We have had a few questions about the decisions on the approach to reopening. We have been following the guidance that came from the DfE and although there have been changes along the way, we used our risk assessments with the principles that we shared with you previously, to support this. As you will be aware, all schools are different - physical capacity, number of staff available and numbers of families wanting a space, are all very different. We are updating the information for each of our schools to ensure we can plan for as many children as possible to return. We have followed the guidance on the year groups that should be offered spaces in the order that was stipulated. The guidance gives the order of Early Years, Year 1 then Year 6. As you will know some year groups are not being offered spaces currently and at our meeting with Surrey County Council yesterday, they have said that we should not widen the year group offer further at this time. The local heads met with Michael Gove and he did say that if you have any concerns, you should write to him. He was clear that each school will be different and that the government will support the approach that the schools are taking.

We have now decided to go to phase 2 of opening and this will be to introduce Year R children back. A survey has gone out this week to ask who will be returning in each academy. The leadership teams in each academy are now planning the bubbles and appropriate staffing for these. We are also considering the timing of opening Nursery provision in schools that still have the capacity for these children and again we have sent out a survey to these academies. Mytchett and Lakeside will open for Nursery on Thursday 11th June and Hale on Monday 15th June. At this time Sandringham and Cross Farm are full and so we will not be able to offer any further places. Your Head Teacher will be in contact with you to explain the procedures for your child.

Yours sincerely

Christine Dickinson
CEO The Kite Academy Trust

