



The Kite Academy Trust
c/o Holly Lodge Primary Academy
Stratford Road
Ash Vale
GU12 5PX
Tel: 01252 984930
Email: info@kite.academy
www.thekiteacademytrust.org
CEO: Mrs C Dickinson

1st January 2021

Dear Families,

We hope that you have had a good family Christmas and new year. We are hopeful that 2021 will be easier than 2020.

You will have heard the announcement from the government that we are to reopen next week. We have reviewed their documentation and there are few changes to the guidance that we were working to before Christmas. We have also checked our staffing levels and currently all nine academies will be opening as planned before the break.

The Government has published a list of Local Authorities in Tier 4 where they feel primary schools should not reopen, and although Surrey and Hampshire are in Tier 4, they are **not** on that list.

Children who are deemed “clinically extremely vulnerable” will have received a letter from their doctor confirming this and should not return on 4th January. With regard to children whose parents are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable, the DfE’s guidance (published on 24th December) states “*Children and young people whose parents or carers are clinically extremely vulnerable can continue to go to school.*”

Staff who are deemed “clinically extremely vulnerable” will also have received a letter from their doctor confirming this and therefore deployment of staff will need to be changed for this purpose and to accommodate other absences i.e. isolating throughout the coming weeks. We will endeavour to keep as much continuity as possible for the children but need to be clear that currently this may not always be possible to achieve; keeping classes open will be our first priority.

The confirmation that primary schools will open next week will come as a relief to some families - and will create a great deal of anxiety to others. Please be assured that we are rigorously following the risk assessments and infection control measures laid down. We are committed to doing whatever we can to protect children and staff whilst doing our very best to deliver learning within the Government expectations.

We also have to be mindful that this is a changing situation, and the Government may make changes to their plans accordingly – which we will then have to implement. However, until that point, we have to work with the current expectations but will take this opportunity to assure you that we will be in touch if and when any further changes are made.

We would ask you to:

Ensure that your child attends school regularly while healthy.

Advise your school office if you have a family member with symptoms, get tested quickly and keep children at home while waiting for results.

Ensure the whole family self-isolate for 10 days from a positive test result being sent to a member of the household.

Discuss any concerns about your child with the Head Teacher (particularly if they are extremely clinically vulnerable).



Be extremely careful to social distance and stay within your own family bubble for drop off and collection.
Wear a face covering when dropping off and picking up your child.
Work with the staff if your child is displaying behavioural issues through anxiety.
Remind your child to wash hands frequently and continue with safe respiratory hygiene.
Contact the academy by email with any questions.

Each academy has reviewed their risk assessments and we are working hard to keep all staff and children safe at this time.

We will:

Ensure consistent groups of children are maintained during the school day.

Continue with the staggered drop off and pick-up times.

Continue with Friday afternoon PPA and time for enhanced cleaning of equipment that has been used in the classrooms.

Continue to provide wraparound care facilities.

Continue to support children with hand and respiratory hygiene.

Ventilate classrooms as often as possible, while maintaining a comfortable temperature for children to work.

Continue to provide remote learning for those children who are unable to attend due to being clinically extremely vulnerable, bubble closure or self-isolating.

Take advice from PHE about any cases and the need for bubble closures.

Keep families informed about any bubble closures that have had to take place.

We have been reassured by the small number of bubbles that needed to be sent home before Christmas, so let's work together to ensure the safety of staff and children and keep bubble closures as low as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support; this is a particularly challenging time for everyone and your kind words and support mean a great deal.

Yours sincerely



Christine Dickinson
CEO, The Kite Academy Trust