Moat Farm Junior School Trust
Where we prepare for tomorrow by achieving today

20th May 2020

School Opening After 1st June

Dear Parents,

I had hoped that by this time I would be able to write to you with more certainty about opening but things are still not totally clear. This letter comes from both myself and Mrs Parmar, our Chair of Governors and I want to reassure you all that our first priority is to safeguard all members of our school community.

From the very start of the pandemic we have worked to ensure that school is as safe as we can make it. I want to take this opportunity to praise our amazing site team led by Mr Norton who have worked tirelessly to clean our school and do everything possible to keep us all healthy and well. In planning to further open up the school to more children we have put every measure in place to reduce risk.

However, we cannot and will not be able to totally guarantee that children, parents and staff do not catch COVID 19. Many parents and staff members have expressed concerns about returning to school. I have every sympathy with these concerns. The staff at our school have the children at the heart of everything they do and want to be back at work but they are rightly worried about what this would mean in terms of spreading a deadly disease. My staff are an exceptional group of people, totally committed to ensuring every child gets the best possible education. I am proud of the work they do every day. I know from feedback from parents that many of you are also very worried . I am a mum myself and even though my children are all adults living away from home, when my daughter caught COVID 19 the fear and anxiety were overwhelming. Like you all, my children are the most precious things in my life and I will do anything to keep them safe.

We remain committed to try and increase the numbers of children attending school in a way that builds the confidence of parents, children and staff. To do this we need to prioritise settling in the increasing numbers of children from key workers coming into school from June the 1st. It will not be possible to increase numbers any further that week and we will look to start Year 6 pupils after that once we are confident that this can be safely managed.

It is important we all understand that in order to limit risk, when we come back to school things will be very different for staff, pupils and parents. Teaching will be done in very small groups to limit contact. There will be no opportunity for these groups to mix. Start times, play and lunchtimes and the end of the school day will be staggered again to limit contact and reduce the potential risk of infection. All members of the school community will need to be at least 2m apart at all times. To do this, we have put markers down in the playground and have moved desks apart. We will insist on this and have altered our behaviour policy to reflect the severity of consequences for children who don't follow these new rules, as failure to comply could compromise the safety of everyone. This is not how we want school to be and particularly for Year 6 pupils and their families who are in the last weeks of their

time at Moat Farm. They have been a truly exceptional cohort of children and parents that we will miss. These children should have had a last sports' day, a prom and a leavers' assembly. It is heart-breaking that this will be denied them.

When we have definite details, we will be in contact immediately. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns.

Best wishes,

Lara Stone
Headteacher

Amy Parmar
Chair of Governors

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Head Teacher: Ms L. Stone
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs E Shaw
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs A Scotney

Brookfields Road, Oldbury, Sandwell, West Midlands, B68 9QR
T: 0121 552 1215 F: 0121 5441776 E: contact@moatfarm-jun.sandwell.sch.uk