

Dear Parents & Carers,

1st June 2020

As you will all know, from this week we are beginning a phased return to Hartsfield for certain groups of children. The approach to this has been led by the guidance received from Government and County and adapted to fit our particular circumstances in terms of staffing and premises in order to ensure that everyone attending or visiting Hartfield can do so as SAFELY as possible. The detailed arrangements, and how they affect you and your children will have been sent to you by Mrs Smith already, but I wanted to write to you all to share a perspective from the Governing Body.

As Chair of Governors I have been in regular contact with Mrs Smith during the entire lockdown period and have been kept fully informed of all the planning and re-planning activity that has been going on. The leadership and staff at Hartsfield have worked tirelessly, producing detailed risk assessments and operational plans in preparation for the phased return, all alongside their great efforts to support families and children with remote learning activities. With the situation ever-changing and revised guidance being issued regularly, I know that the planning is being constantly reviewed and updated appropriately. The school team has been working tremendously hard in unfamiliar and challenging circumstances and on behalf of the governing body I want to take this opportunity to thank them and applaud their excellent work.

I have been into school today to see the physical preparations for myself and to 'walk through' a typical day for the returning children. Obviously school will be a very different place for the time being while all of the special rules remain in place and we operate the 'bubble' system. Equipment/materials packs are being prepared for the children, easy to follow signage is popping up where needed and many extra hand sanitisation stations are being installed. The years groups will be very clearly separated in the school and the procedures for lunchtimes and the planned use of school equipment will ensure that cleanliness and sanitisation is strictly adhered to.

For those of you who do have children returning to Hartsfield in the coming days, I can assure you that your children's safety and wellbeing is very much at the core of every action and decision being made, and every possible effort is being made to make their return an enjoyable and welcoming one. For those who are not returning at this time I know that the team are absolutely committed to maintaining a high level of support and engagement remotely, and are actively working on new and innovative ways to keep connected.

Finally, I want to thank you all for all the support you have given Mrs Smith and the team during these challenging times. It means a huge amount to the staff to know that their efforts are appreciated. Once again I'd like to add my thanks to them on behalf of all the governors for all their hard work in what is 'uncharted territory' for everyone involved. The whole of the staff at Hartsfield are desperate to see all the children again – whenever it is possible and safe to do so.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Mr Drew Campbell

Chair of Governors, Hartsfield JMI School