



# JAMES COOK LEARNING TRUST

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Dear Parents and Carers

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May the Prime Minister shared the Government's ambition for schools to begin a phased re-opening across England from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Since then all four schools within James Cook Learning Trust have been using the guidance that has been published to consider ways of how to move forward.

We are aware of the need for pupils to be back at school and wish for nothing more than to see all of our pupils back learning within the school environment. We are also aware of the plans of other schools in the local area and the medical opinion as it currently stands.

In line with many schools across Middlesbrough, the four schools within James Cook Learning Trust will begin a phased return on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June for Year 6 pupils only**. This will provide time for schools to plan and work towards minimising risk as much as possible. It will allow time for schools to be thoroughly cleaned and for new systems to be put in place to make sure we are adhering to Government guidance. From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June we will begin the phased return of our Y1 pupils. At this time, we are not planning the return of any other year group. We are taking small steps within a sensible time frame to ensure that pupils and staff are as safe as possible.

Before and after school care will not be offered at this time across the Trust due to the restrictions within the current Government guidance around social distancing and ensuring groups of children do not mix.

**We will continue to offer our Key Worker childcare provision throughout the course of half term and whilst we are integrating the two-year groups identified above.**

From the 8<sup>th</sup> June we will be returning to our prime role of providing an education. This means that if you wish your child to return to school, it is exactly that, a return to school, albeit a very different school. The expectation is that pupils will be in attendance every single day. If we were to provide the facility for pupils to attend 'as and when', it would be impossible for teachers to plan sequences of learning and for the return to school to have any real impact. The Government has made it clear that at the moment they will not be holding schools to account for levels of attendance, however by agreeing to send your child back to school it is of the understanding that it is on a full-time basis.

Nearer the time each school will write to their own school community to provide specific details about how the return will work. What will be common across the four schools is the emphasis on pupil wellbeing.

We will continue to provide learning opportunities remotely for pupils not in Y6 or Y1 and for pupils within these year groups who do not return to school. We know that these have been challenging times for all concerned and we are very grateful of your continued support during all of this.

As previously expressed, we all wish for nothing more than ALL of our pupils back at school. We are taking these tentative steps to make sure we are doing things as safely as possible for all concerned.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Thackstone  
Lingfield Primary School

Mrs A Young  
Captain Cook Primary School

Mrs G Howard  
Marton Manor Primary School

Mrs E Watson  
The Avenue Primary School

