



Trinity
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SE12 8PD

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Executive Headteacher :
Mr David Lucas BSc (Hons) MA NPQH

22nd May 2020

Dear Trinity Community,

I hope you are well and enjoying the beautiful weather. I am writing to you with some key information about our future plans.

As you will be aware, there has been a huge amount of material published by the Government around the next steps in expanding the in-school learning provision for certain year groups. I want to ensure that our message to the whole Trinity community is clear and gives you specific information on what we have been doing to secure a safe environment to gradually allow more pupils to return. We want to continue to work closely with our whole community and as such would like to sincerely thank you all for completing the survey we sent out.

Trinity school is currently open to the children of critical & key workers and vulnerable pupils and has been since Monday 23rd March. We have around 20 pupils coming to school daily for our current provision and this has been hugely successful. The government has decided that the country has made enough progress in reducing the transmission of Coronavirus and is therefore encouraging more children to attend in a phased return when, and only when, the current data of the country is at a level to do this. The government has created different phases and these will be activated when the scientific advice recommends so at timely intervals. As a school we have to be led by these announcements. The aim is to expand school provision gradually & safely, building up pupil entitlement to being able to learn back in school. Trinity wants to secure opportunities for all pupils to be able to attend and therefore have worked on a sustainable plan. Throughout the planning process we have sought the opinions of staff, parents, teaching unions, the Diocese of Southwark, the Local Authority and groups of pupils. The health and safety of our entire school community is paramount and the opinions expressed have been taken into account to help us mitigate the causes of concern as much as possible.

There are many & varied constraints we have to consider including the number of staff that are able to return at this point, the size of classrooms and the need to continue the home learning provision as this gradual increase will take time. I have set out the plan here and it will be summarised again within our newsletter / staff briefing sheet tomorrow. It will always remain a working plan and subject to change; we aim to evaluate continuously to ensure we are following all the latest advice and supporting our community in the best possible way. All adaptations and alterations will be communicated to our school community. We wish to thank you for your continued support and we know that working together will make our gradual reopening safe and successful for all.

It is paramount for the safety of our school community that staff and children should never attend if they have any CV19 related symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household. Now that testing is more widely available, we all have a duty of care to ensure we are only attending school if we do not have any symptoms or have been tested clear to suppress the spread of the virus.

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As a school protective measures will be put in place for staff and pupils as far as is possible, to ensure that the risk of transmission is reduced. Taking all the constraints on board and the advice from unions, the government, the Local Authority and the Diocese, we believe a slow and gradual part-time provision plan is sustainable in the first instance.

It is difficult to give everyone what they think is needed and every school even across Lewisham has come up with different plans depending on their own school situation. Please do visit the Lewisham website for a letter from the Mayor stating this clearly.

40% of our parents are happy with the risk assessments in place to return to school. 20% were not convinced it was right to send their pupils back at this time. To this end we want to start slowly, build confidence and develop our provision over time. We want to ensure pupils are with their own teacher as much as possible and start something that will be somewhat familiar to support the gradual return to education. This provision will adapt over time but needs to be sustainable to allow us to potentially open up provision for all year groups across the primary phase before the summer holiday and start provision for year 10 in the secondary phase. We will continue to take advice from the government and if any issues arise we will adapt immediately to cater for any changes that are required. It is important that we work together.

We will throughout this gradual increase in numbers continue to care for children whose parents are critical to the Coronavirus response, so that they can continue to work when no alternative childcare arrangements can be made and for children who are vulnerable. **This provision will be changing location from Monday June 1st from the primary site to the secondary site** which will enable us to prepare and adapt the primary site for social distancing measures. The timing of this provision will be the same, and staffing will be a mix of primary and secondary teachers.

The government has prioritised 3 year groups within Trinity Primary and 1 year group within Trinity Secondary to begin a gradual phased re-opening. The groups are Year R, 1, 6 and 10 at Trinity. Throughout this term the government may increase this provision, and we therefore have been told to plan for this continual gradual increase in numbers over time. We have carried out a thorough risk assessment across our buildings and feel that groups of no more than 10 pupils within classrooms would be appropriate with 1 adult to start with. This will ensure that each person in the classroom will have at least 4 square metres each, allowing us to have the space to socially distance and learn. Small groups will ensure pupils get the attention to support more rapid learning. With year groups of 60 in the primary and 120 in the secondary we therefore have had to look at our staff and room capacity. To this end, we believe we can provide a curriculum that secures safe spaces with familiar teachers for 2 days a week initially. For the primary school this would mean each class would be split in half. Half would come in with their teacher on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday would be a thorough cleaning day ready for the other half of the year on Thursday and Friday. This pattern will mean all pupils will get face to face time with a teacher, will get direct feedback and support and will also mean they can continue the work they have started in school as home learning for the remaining 3 days a week. These groups of 10 are what you may have heard in the press as 'bubbles'. This group, with their teacher, will stay together throughout the day. They will stay in the same room and only use one set of equipment. This group will not mix with other groups and will have a staggered start and end time to the day (with different entrances) to minimise

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opportunities of groups of pupils potentially infecting each other. There will be a lot of new and important rules and routines for pupils to follow. To make sure we are consistent we have planned a full training programme for our staff and will only slowly start each year group after we have been given the go ahead by the government and only when we feel that we are ready.

The groups above have been prioritised because they are key transition years – children in Reception and Year 1 are at the very beginning of their school career and are mastering the essential basics, including counting and the fundamentals of reading & writing and learning to socialise with their peers. We know that attending early education lays the foundation for lifelong learning and supports children’s social and emotional development. Year 6 children are finishing Key Stage 2 and are preparing for the transition to secondary school and will benefit immensely from time with their friends and teachers to ensure they are ready. Other primary year groups will follow but to sustain this, we have had to do this part time initially so that we can facilitate all primary year groups in the building before the end of this academic year if the conditions are right. At the secondary phase the government has said Year 10 as they have their exams next year, are a priority to ensure they get back into the flow of learning. We are not rushing into this provision and this will also be part time in small groups – different days for different groups. If any other guidance changes with regards to social distancing and health and safety we will be able to adapt our provision as and when this occurs.

It is difficult to give you an exact time line as we have not yet been given a definite start date by the government. Our continual evaluation of our risk assessment may also affect our time line. I know parents want more specific dates but I know that you appreciate that this is very difficult. Our current plans are for staff training in the week beginning 1st of June 2020. Only our current critical & key worker provision will be running during this week and that will be from then at the secondary site. The week after this (beginning Monday 8th June) as long as all the indicators are green and allow us to progress, we are considering having just Year 1 in addition to our key worker provision. Then the week after we will consider Year 6 in addition. Week beginning 22nd of June will see Year R and 10 added enabling all 4 priority year groups to have a provision at Trinity. These are rough dates that are dependent on external factors and our in school self-evaluation systems. We want to grow gradually with safety at the heart of all our decisions. We will give more detailed information over time through updates on our school app – so if you have not yet signed up to this it is vital that you do.

Finally, we are encouraging pupils of these year groups to attend. There is no sanction for those that do not send their pupils in. We want to win hearts and minds and some families will want to see how the provision starts before they are comfortable with sending their children into school. The school has set up a structure that means families can decide at any point that they now want their children to start the provision once their year group has started. We will want parents to communicate this with us so that we are prepared beforehand but will have capacity for all. We have set up a system that can facilitate all pupils when they are ready. The return to education is crucial for the children’s academic progress and for their mental wellbeing – we want to support families and work with the community to build our provision over time.

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To summarise, the key points are:

- Our current provision for vulnerable pupils and **children of critical workers** will continue but at our **secondary site** from **1st June**. This provision will continue until the end of the summer term.
- The week beginning 1st June will be a staff training week. **No additional pupils will be back at school, just the key workers provision.**
- As long as the conditions are right, on the week beginning **8th June**, we will invite **Year One** pupils only back to the primary site.
- Half of the year group will be allotted time in school on Monday and Tuesday, with the other half on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a day of deep cleaning. Further specific information will be given to parents in Year one after half term.
- In the weeks following 15th June, we hope to gradually welcome back more year groups depending on government guidance, including year 6, R and 10 first.

There is a lot of information here for you to digest. This will again be summarised in our Newsletter and I will do a presentation to explain this for parents as well.

Stay safe and strong and enjoy the half term break.

David Lucas

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