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Headteacher: Bella Street

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your family are well. As you are aware on Sunday 10th May, the Prime Minister made an announcement that schools, where possible, should try to bring children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back to school from 1st June; as well as the continued provision for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Groups. All other year groups should continue to be educated at home.

As a Trust we outlined three key guiding principles in our phased return:

1. **The safety of children and staff will be our top priority.**
2. **The main purpose of expanding provision, within Government guidelines, is to further support the communities we serve.**
3. **We respect that parents are best placed to determine whether their children come to school, if eligible, or continue learning at home.**

From 1st June we invited Year 1 back to school. Whilst understandably there was some apprehension, those children who returned have been thrilled to be back in school and it has been a pleasure to watch them learning back at school with their peers. We currently have 16 out of a total of 25 Year One children attending.

The school remains open for the key and vulnerable groups. If your job falls in the category below, please consider sending your child in. We have always reached out to these groups and we will continue to do so as long as this remains safe. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Whilst I understand that this is an unknown and unsettling time, I am sure you will agree that the safety of our pupils must come first. Having tested our systems and processes, as well as conducted detailed risk assessments, the STEP Board of Trustees has taken the decision to halt further extension of provision at Park due to lack of staffing capacity. The situation in school will be reviewed daily and all Government guidance will be adhered to. I am sorry that this not be welcome news to some of you and I understand your frustrations. As teachers, we are equally frustrated, as we want nothing more than to go back to what we love: teaching your children. However, at the moment, this is not possible given the social distancing measures in place.

In addition to our extensive safety and hygiene measures across all of our sites, we commenced weekly staff testing in the London academies on Monday 8th June to ensure that we are able to track and trace the potential spread of the virus quickly. I am happy to report that none of the 15 Park staff who were tested on Monday have Covid 19.

I am keen to hear from you as to how you feel the home learning is meeting the needs of your child and if you think we can be doing more (or less). Please email me at office@park-academy.org so you can share your views.

Thanks for your understanding during this challenging times. Best wishes
Bella Street
Headteacher