

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I trust you are all safe and well.

We have entered the month of May and have done so in a continued form of national 'lockdown'. The aim, of course, has been to minimise the spread of coronavirus.

Since our schools were closed, we have fully embraced government guidance and facilitated as many staff as possible to work from home whilst providing 'Educare' provision to those children that qualify. In many ways our new model of operation has developed its own rhythm with staff working across three strands of work; face to face care in schools, delivering e-learning and keeping in touch and supporting those who are most vulnerable.

Our hub model of 'Educare' provision has succeeded in keeping staff and children safe and reducing the spread of infection by minimising the number of staff required to supervise children. We have now begun to boost our capacity by opening more of our schools so that they can provide Educare to the increased number of children that we are now seeing daily. Oreston Community Academy, Coombe Dean School and Plymstock School opened last week and we now have Woodlands Park Primary School planned to open on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

It is our intention to continue with this form of working until at least 1<sup>st</sup> June. We are now beginning to hear that the government might begin to 'soften' the form of lockdown we currently experience since some of the five conditions they set are starting to be met. I wish to reassure you that we are actively scenario planning in the background as to what and how a partial reopening might work and look like. We have been reassured on multiple occasions that this will not happen overnight and that suitable notice of 2-3 weeks will be given. Once we have a definite steer from the government, we will inform you of our procedures for returning to school. However, in the meantime, it is vital that we continue with our current actions and do all we can to prevent the further spread of infection.

Aside from the news about coronavirus, I am delighted to inform you of some key leadership appointments across our trust in recent weeks:

- Kevin Dyke has been appointed as the Headteacher of Coombe Dean School with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Many parents will be familiar with Kevin Dyke

**STRONGER TOGETHER... EVERY CHILD IN A GREAT SCHOOL**

through his work at Plymstock School, Callington Community College and South Dartmoor Community College.

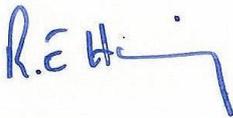
- Jen Veale, currently an experienced Headteacher in Somerset, has been appointed as the Executive Principal of South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School from the start of the autumn term.
- Chris Rickard has been appointed as the new Head of School of Holbeton Primary School and will take up post from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Chris is currently the Deputy Headteacher at Stowford School.
- Kate Patrick has been successfully appointed as the new Headteacher of Woodford Primary School with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. In similar fashion to Kevin Dyke, many parents will know Kate Patrick through her leadership roles at Yealmpton Primary School and Dunstone Primary School.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing them well and supporting them in their new positions.

I close by picking up the theme of our strap-line; 'Stronger together – every child in a great school'. It is through these adverse and unpredictable times that we have, from each other, found comfort and support. We have rallied together to ensure we meet each new challenge collectively and stay safe. 'Stronger together' seems to convey an even more heartfelt message now than at any other time.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Best wishes



Rob Haring