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**Head of School: Joan Wright**

 8th July 2020

Dear All

I am writing to explain our intentions for the return of school in September. You will be aware of the announcement by the Secretary of State that all schools are to open to all children and young people from the start of term in September. The guidance that has been issued to schools subsequently makes it clear that it will be compulsory for children and young people to attend. It will also be expected that all adults who work in schools will return to the workplace.

The majority of students and staff have already returned to school during June. There will be some young people and adults who have not been back to school and will be apprehensive about returning in September. The measures we adopted in June reduced the risk of transmission. Having had these measures in place for several weeks and reviewed them every week in consultation with staff from across the school we are confident we are managing that risk as effectively as we can. The change in September is that we will move from having around one third of students in each day to all the students in each day. Our intention is to keep in place the majority of the control measures we currently use and to then increase the size of the class bubbles. Each class of students will have a team of adults who remain with that group for the day. Contact between classes will be restricted as far as possible. In this way we limit the likelihood of transmission beyond one class group and would hope to be able to keep the school open to the other class groups. The details of how we will do this are set out in the control measures which will be updated and published on our website before the Summer break.

This approach, however does limit the curriculum we can provide. Each class will receive teaching in priority areas and some specialist teaching but this will be dependent upon the specialist skill set of the teacher. At this time, compromising the curriculum to ensure lower levels of risk seems appropriate. This will be continually reviewed and we would hope to reach

a point during the autumn term where teachers may work with more than one bubble and that the bubbles may also be increased to include two or three classes.

It is still some time until September and it is possible our plans could change. We will continue to follow the local and national advice and guidance. At this time, I would like to thank the young people, parents and carers that have worked with us over the last few months and shown understanding of the difficult decisions we have had to make. I would also like to thank the staff of Springfield and the Meadows Schools who have been so dedicated, continuing to provide education and support for those young people not in school. Many staff have been in school every week since February working with our most vulnerable young people and the children of key workers. Those staff have certainly earned a break this summer. I would also like to thank the school leaders who have worked so hard to look after not just the young people but the staff. The School leaders still have significant work to do over the summer to ensure the school is ready for September and I thank them in advance for their commitment.

Kind regards



Christopher Best