



The Consortium Trust

Where together excellence and pupils thrive

Covid-19 update for Parents and Carers

26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write I am still waiting for clear guidance from the Department for Education regarding our next steps, there is much discussion in the national media about what may or may not happen. With only four weeks left of the school year, I wanted to update you on our plans as they stand, please be aware that I am working in good faith, attempting to pre-judge announcements based on the information I have available now. Please appreciate that actions may have to evolve but I understand how important it is for parents to have as much notice as possible.

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to all of you, I was particularly heartened by the number of positive emails and calls we received from parents after my last letter. It is so nice to hear that for the vast majority we are meeting and exceeding your needs and more importantly those of the children. I know that not everyone's experience is positive and where you have a concern please do share, but understand that we are all seeking to make the very best out of situation not of our making. Being kind to one another goes an awful long way and is particularly welcome in a time of crisis.

BE KIND
— *for* —
EVERYONE
YOU MEET *is*
FIGHTING
a HARD BATTLE

We are currently full: After my last letter, I asked Academy Heads to support as many children back into school as we could safely manage, they have done that and our schools are now full. Remaining children in the government target year groups are now on waiting lists and the school will contact you when a place becomes available.

Term will end on Friday 17th July: In preparation for the end of term, I have decided that we will close all schools to all currently attending pupils, in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6, vulnerable pupils and Key Worker children with the last day being Friday 17th July.

Face to Face contact days for children yet to attend school: Academy Heads have been planning for face to face contact for all other children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 and new intake reception for the final three days of term, 20th – 22nd July. The hope is that all children will have least had the opportunity to experience a school day before we close for the summer break. Schools will advise eligible pupils of the arrangements as soon as possible.

Registered in England and Wales, Private Limited Company by guarantee, without share capital. Company number: 10255142.

Registered office address: 27 Norwich Road, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BX.

www.consortiumacademy.org. Tel.No: 01986 835670. Email: businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org

Principal & CEO: Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne. Email: principal@consortiumacademy.org



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Summer Provision: The final day of the summer term in Wednesday 22nd July, after that all schools will be closed to all pupils for the summer. The new academic year starts on the 1st September with two staff training days with all pupils returning to school on Thursday 3rd September. There are no plans to operate any childcare provision or ESCape Holiday School over the summer holiday.

All children set to return to school from September: I am working with Academy Heads on several recovery plans for September, and all indicators are pointing to the lifting of the 15 per class rule and any requirement for pupils to socially distance in school. This is yet to be confirmed but there appears to be a refocus of emphasis on hygiene. In preparation we have invested in additional bio-security measures including external handwashing stations as modelled by Rendlesham Primary below. These will be deployed to schools along with hand held thermometer guns in the next few weeks.



All staff and pupils will be temperature checked at the school gate and entry will be denied to anyone who registers a high temperature or appears to be unwell, staff will double check any positive results. This measure is to protect us all including our extended families, your support and cooperation is appreciated. I understand that the refusal at the school gate will be disrupting to your day, but an outbreak of Covid-19 at one of our schools would be devastating for us all.

Attendance: It is currently my expectation that from September we will be operating 'normal' size classes. While we will continue to have some of the existing control measures including restricting access to our buildings, minimising movement around schools, no off-site learning opportunities or swimming throughout the autumn term. Academy Heads will continue to comply with DfE and Public Health England guidance and will maintain a robust risk assessment. I appreciate that some parents remain concerned about the impact of the virus and may be reluctant to return to school in September, I would encourage all children to return. Academy Heads will be confirming with parents, pupil places for the autumn term, should you remain concerned and do not wish for your child(ren) to return in September – we will discuss with you a **Minimum Contact Agreement**. Children have the right to education and for children on roll at our schools we share the responsibility for that with parents. We will therefore require a written agreement between home and school outlining the educational provision for children not in school, including at least weekly checks. Should a child not attend school or we received a working Minimum Contact Agreement we reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a place at the school as we would be unable to comply with the educational obligations placed on us.

Catch-up: We also need to acknowledge that all children have had almost 6 months of disrupted education and we are working on a number of options that would support children to catch up. Education is precious and we need to ensure that the impact on children is minimised. More details of our proposals will be shared as soon as possible.

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Kirkley Nursery opening September 2020 and staff required: I am also delighted to launch the recruitment campaign for our twelfth establishment, Kirkley Nursery near Lowestoft which will open in September 2020 and we are now looking for passionate and committed individuals to join the staff team. Please get in touch if you are interested 😊

Kirkley Nursery
Staff Recruitment Fayre
for Highly Qualified Early Years Practitioners
Wednesday 15th July 9:30a.m. - 3:30p.m.
Nursery opening Thursday 3rd September
8:00a.m. - 5:30p.m. Mon-Fri, open 50 weeks per year
For children of 6 months to 4 years of age
Drop in, or email us to arrange a visit at:
businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org
Proud to be part of The Consortium Trust
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It has been without doubt the strangest and most intense academic year that any of us could have imagined, but we have as a Trust got through the worst of a global pandemic with dignity and respect. Together we have risen to the challenges, exceeded the expectations made of us and throughout allowed our humanity and care to shine through.

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Alders-Dunthorne
CEO & Principal

Cc: Trust Board and Members
Locality Committee members