Civitas Academy Bulletin

18/05/20



**Update from Mr Wieder**

I am writing to update you with where we are with potentially reopening in June. At this point, we are coming towards the end of exploring the feasibility to open stage. As part of this process, we had to look at our staffing capacity for reopening in June as like many organisations not all of our staff will be available to return straight away. We also sought feedback from families via the questionnaire and we also completed a comprehensive risk management plan that details all of the adjustments that will need to be completed in order to open to a wider group of pupils. I was provided with a 42 page detailed document from REAch2 that supported me and the leadership team with the risk management plan. Our documents were submitted to REAch2 for approval on Friday and will now follow a rigorous process with different layers before any final decision made about reopening. Once we know the outcome of this decision, I will share this with you.

When considering any potential reopening, these are the requirements that have to be met in full:

**Tier 1 Trust Non-negotiables:**

In line with the Trust’s health and safety policy:

* There are appropriate staff (in number and type) available for work to ensure the safety and well-being of the children on site and learning from home.
* Social distancing can be maintained so far as is reasonably practicable by the number of parents, staff and pupils on site at any time.
* The school site is fully compliant with Health and Safety legislation and can be maintained to a high standard of cleanliness once opened.
* There are adequate cleaning materials, soap/hand gels available to maintain safe hygiene practices whilst the school is open with personal, protective equipment (PPE) for those staff required to carry out intimate care for a pupil.

**Tier 2 Trust Requirements:**

* The opening of each school must be phased and appropriate to the school’s individual circumstances.
* Leaders must ensure that the safeguarding of children in school and at home is maintained to the highest standard.
* Leaders must ensure that the mental well-being of all staff and pupils is appropriately cared for.
* Leaders must ensure that all children in attendance at school or working from home are receiving the minimum of a core curriculum for at least part or all of the school day.

The hub model of childcare for key worker and vulnerable children will cease on Friday 29th May. We have now scheduled an INSET day for Monday 1st June where staff will be briefed on procedures and potentially prepare new rooms to be used. The childcare service will then reopen for Civitas Academy and staff children (primary age range only) on Tuesday 2nd June. If we are approved for reopening, then we will implement a phased approach to return. I will hope to communicate with you further regarding any potential re-opening dates (which would be subject to change) later this week.

To summarise, from June 2nd, Civitas Academy will be doing the following:

1. Providing home learning resources for all children from Reception to Y4.
2. Maintaining a childcare provision for key worker and vulnerable children in year groups that are not currently in school.
3. Potentially reopening for some year groups in a phased approach. This is subject to approval from REAch2 trustees, government advice and full implementation of the risk management plan. It will also be reliant on having sufficient staffing capacity to do so.

We all want the children to return as soon as it is safe to do so. As there is a potential of the school re-opening in June, we will not be able to maintain the same level of high standards with YouTube tutorials from June onwards, so the home learning packs will be adjusted accordingly. Staff in different year groups may be required to work across the school and they will not have the same amount of time allocated as previously to do this. Thank you for your understanding.

**Parent Questionnaire**

Thank you for all of you that have responded. It has been useful to obtain feedback from you regarding viewpoints around the school potentially reopening. As of this morning, we had 124 responses that related to 147 children on roll. The headlines from the survey are:

* Approximately 25% would send their children back to school in June.
* Approximately 25% are undecided at this stage.
* Approximately 50% would prefer the children to return at a later stage.

There were several questions raised that I will summarise below:

**What measures will be in place to support social distancing?**

These have been outlined in our risk management plan that is currently awaiting approval. Ideas that we have mentioned include: staggered opening and closing times; limiting access to families on site and encouraging email and phone interaction; classes put into groups with a maximum of 15 pupils and one child per table. This is just a brief summary and there will be further measures put into place if approved including amending our behaviour policy for children that struggle with social distancing. However, it is important to point out that social distancing can only be maintained as far as reasonably practical. We will educate the children on what social distancing is and provide taped markings around the building to support this.

**What will happen if I choose not to send my child into school during this period?**

This is an unprecedented time and one that changes quickly. At this stage with a small staff and current restrictions in place, we would not be able to accommodate every child in at the same time. There is also a wide range of opinion from families with some supporting a return and others not. Some of our children and families are extremely clinically vulnerable and it would not be appropriate for them to return at this stage. As a result, the government has indicated that families will not be fined if they choose not to send their children into school at this stage. We have been provided with an attendance code that we can use if your child has been invited to attend and you have chosen not to send in.

From a school perspective, when we are potentially planning a phased return for children, we will consider your response that you made in your questionnaire. I have asked staff to plan home learning activities for at least the first four weeks back after half term.

**Will the childcare service continue for children in other year groups?**

This will continue for Civitas Academy children only from the 2nd June.

**INSET Day- Monday 1st June**

There will now be an INSET day on Monday 1st June. There will be no childcare service available on this day.

**Free School Meals**

Please note that the Edenred national voucher scheme will not operate during the May half-term week.

**Mental Health Week**

This week is Mental Health Week. Thank you to Mrs Carey for organising.

**Virtual Coffee Morning for Parents/ Carers**

Civitas Academy would like to offer Civitas parents the opportunity to attend our first virtual coffee morning.

Please join Sara Slade (SENCo) and Sue Carey (PSHE and Wellbeing Lead) who will be available to answer questions relating to social and emotional support of Civitas children.  The session will be hosted on Zoom, on Wednesday 20th May at 11.00am – 11.45. The link is available on our email bulletin from last week.

**2019-20 Key Dates (All subject to change)**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 18th- Friday 22nd May | Mental Health Week |
| Monday 25th-Friday 29th May | Half Term |
| Monday 1st June | INSET Day |
| Monday 8th-Friday 12th June | Cultural Diversity Week |
| Friday 12th June | International Day |
| Wednesday 1st July | Transition Day |
| Friday 10th July | Reports Out |
| Friday 17th July | Last day of term for children |