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Head Teacher: Mr. Stephen Murphy

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

We have today received notification from Chester Diocesan Academy Trust (CDAT) that we can go ahead with our plans to re-open school to more pupils. This means that on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June we will welcome pupils from Reception and Year 1 Doves and on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June we will welcome Year 6 Rainbows. We are very excited to see our pupils again.

I know some of you will be anxious about a return to school after seeing various stories in the news. I have included some of the reasoning that Stockport LA have given as the basis for their decisions to allow schools to re-open to more pupils:

- The number of cases, hospital admissions and deaths in Stockport remain low and are declining.
- In the last two weeks, based on PHE data of the number of new cases, Stockport's position was a rate of 6.8 per 100,000 in the previous 14 days, which is below the Greater Manchester position of 16.8 per 100,000 and below the national rate of 9.2 per 100,000.

We are confident that our risk assessments and plans will enable us to operate in a manner that is safe for staff, pupils and families. I take this opportunity to reiterate the public health message that everyone has a role to play in keeping schools and communities safe. We appeal to the whole community of St. Matthew's to adhere closely to the guidance on social distancing, using face coverings where social distancing is not possible, prioritising good hygiene practices, using caution when meeting up with potential contacts.

You may have also seen the government announcement that primary schools will not be opening to children in other classes before the summer holidays. While we are not surprised by this news due to current restrictions on space, we are very disappointed. We will continue to deliver home-learning opportunities to pupils not attending school and will review what we are able to offer in the future.

Now that we know that we can begin to re-open, we will send out a link to a very short survey (yes, another one!) asking parents to confirm or refuse a place at school. This will allow teachers to have an up-to-date view of who to expect in their classrooms next week. Once parents have accepted a place, we will expect that pupils maintain regular attendance thereafter.

For families with pupils in classes that are due to return, we will send out more information later today that gives more detail on our plans for next week and beyond. There is a lot of information included in it and I ask that you read it carefully so that we can get things right on Monday.

Kind regards,

Mr. Stephen Murphy