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**Head of School: Joan Wright**

4th May 2020

Dear All

With the second review of lockdown approaching and a timetable for the relaxation of measures likely in the week ahead, this seems like a good time to provide you with an update as to where we stand at Springfield and The Meadows.

As you will be aware although we had to close to most children, we remained open to our most vulnerable children and the children of essential workers. Making that decision was really difficult but we had to do it to follow the government and NHS advice and most importantly to keep everyone safe.

We have continued to look after these children throughout the Easter holidays and will do so through the May Half term. For those children not in school, the teachers have been working really hard to provide you with lessons and activities that you can do at home. We know how hard this must be and I hope everyone is being realistic about how much you can achieve at such a challenging time. I hope where you are facing challenges you are all taking advantage of the support our teachers and staff can provide.

Our team of family workers and our DSL, Kieron, Julie and Sarah continue to be in touch with our vulnerable children and their families where they are not in school, to check they are ok and to offer help where they can.

One of the high moments of what has been a difficult few weeks has been through Springfield. The Springfield staff put together a video montage and song that was sent out to all the pupils and within a week many of the parents had got together remotely and sent back a similar video montage featuring the pupils in their homes.

I know many of you would like to be provided with some certainty about what the next few weeks and months will hold, unfortunately I know little more than you. It would appear that the relaxation of lockdown, whenever that happens, will include allowing some people to return to the workplace. This will be the same for schools. It seems likely that when schools do open, it will be phased, by that I mean that not all pupils will return at once. It may be only some year groups come back at first or that there is a part time timetable that means that we have only small groups of pupils in school each day. We will need clear guidance on how to apply social distancing in school, and particularly in special schools. We will need this advice so that we can give you the confidence that it is safe for your child to come back to school.

It is likely we will hear from the government at the same time as you, and that the announcement will be aimed at mainstream schools, so we will then have to get advice and work out how we make it work in special schools. However, a difference to when this crisis began will be that we should be given several weeks notice, which at least will give us time to think about the best thing to do.

In the next week we may have a clearer idea of when schools could re-open but I expect it may take a few weeks to confirm how we at Springfield and The Meadows will make it work. Rest assured that we will share our plans as soon as we can. In the meantime, I wish everyone the best and hope you are all keeping safe.

Regards



Chris Best

Executive Headteacher