



# Gentleshaw Primary Academy

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

## Planned Academy Opening – June 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

Following the Prime Minister's statement on May 10<sup>th</sup> regarding the possible opening of Primary Schools, it has been necessary for us to review guidance and consider how this will be best achieved for our Gentleshaw family.

The academy senior leadership team have considered the various options and discussed these with other trust members, headteachers and the governing board. We can now share the plan which we have devised for the possible return to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. It is important that we are aware that this date is still subject to change based on information received from the government.

It is essential that you take the time to thoroughly read the related document 'Academy Opening Plan'. This document outlines exactly how the reopening will take place, the reasons behind the decisions made and what the expectations are of all stakeholders.

Please be aware of the following key points:

- The re-opening of the academy will be very different to the 'normal school life' we left in March.
- Pupils will be offered part time hours consisting of 2 days per week.
- Year groups will be split into 'learning bubbles' of no more than 15 pupils and we cannot guarantee that children will be in a learning bubble with their friendship group.
- Timings of the school day will be different and pupils will be assigned specific drop-off and pick-up points and timings – it is vital that these are adhered to for the safety of our children and families.
- This plan may be delayed if the government determine that schools should not reopen from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

I am wholly aware that there is a large amount of information to digest and that some families may be disappointed that we are offering part time hours. However the 'Academy Opening Plan' outlines the areas, restrictions and limitations it has been necessary for us to consider. In order for this plan to be most successful it is vital for the academy, parents/carers and employers to work together.

An online form will be available on the academy website from today. We are kindly asking you to complete this by 6.00pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, once you have read through all of the additional information, specifying if your child will or will not be returning to school. Your response will enable us to create the learning bubbles and notify you by Sunday which days your child will be allocated at school.

There is no doubt that at a time of such uncertainty that the decision as to whether your child will return to school is very difficult. I would like to assure all families that whatever choice you make you will be respected and supported by the Gentleshaw team and that we encourage everyone to make the decision that is right for their family.

Thank you all for your continued support through such unprecedented times.

Kind regards and best wishes

Genevieve Parsons

Headteacher