



Mrs Lesley Hughes
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With God, all things are possible.

14th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many of you will have watched the Prime Minister speak about an ambition for a return to school over the coming months. I am sure this will have caused you worry and concern when the date of 1st June for some year groups in primary schools was mentioned. As the Prime Minister put it on Sunday, *“all of this is conditional, it all depends on a series of big ‘Ifs’ ... we will be monitoring our progress locally, regionally, and nationally and if there are outbreaks, if there are problems, we will not hesitate to put on the brakes”*.

I am aware that you will be keen to know what the plan for a return to SMA might look like, and I will share this with you as soon as I receive guidance from the DfE, the Director of Education and agreement from the Board of Governors. I am keen to know your views about returning to school and have asked for a city-wide approach in canvassing the opinions of all of our parents and carers in Liverpool. If this is not possible, I hope to be able to prepare a short SMA survey to ask your views over the coming days. It is crucial that I work with parents and staff together as we weave our way towards a ‘new normal’ and establish new routines, but at the same time, ensuring priority for the well being, health and safety of our whole school community.

We are missing seeing all of our wonderful pupils and families that make up the SMA family and what we want more than anything is to see our pupils back here at school, but only when we can reassure you that they will be safe and that our staff will be safe. We are planning how that might look like, not least of all the very new and different safety procedures that will need to be securely in place.

Whilst the academic education of your child is very important, their safety is by far the most important factor in all of this, and that of all our staff. You can rest assured that when we return, it will be with an assurance that we can follow Public Health England and the Government’s medical advice to safeguard all at SMA. This advice will be used alongside our knowledge of our pupils and our building. Whatever those measures are, I will be sharing them with you as soon as I can. I think absolute clarity is needed for everyone concerned. It will take time to put new measures in place and a return back to SMA is likely to look very different initially to how we operated before the lockdown.

I can reassure you that no matter what, no parent or carer will be pressured into sending their child(ren) to school should they be anxious about their health and well-being and no-one will be penalised for absence during this transition period until we return to ‘normal’ whenever that may be! As guidance is developed on this, I will share the information with you.



2019-2022

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Until we receive further updates and guidance about a plan to return to school, our pupils should continue to carry on with their Home Learning tasks and share their wonderful work with us whenever they can, our teachers will continue to set activities and challenges and keep in touch with you via class email, our welfare and pastoral team will continue to support our families and pupils, offering additional support to those who need it and our wider team of support staff will continue to set fun challenges and carry on with their many and varied jobs and roles that keep the SMA cogs turning.

Until we receive guidance, we will continue to operate as a Hub, offering a place of safety for the children of key workers and those who are vulnerable.

I cannot express enough how grateful I am for your support, understanding and patience. These are such difficult times and what has been really apparent is the love and support we have shown each other as one big, wonderful SMA family.

Please stay safe and well, I will update you as soon as I possibly can.

Yours sincerely

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