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Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing to you with an update on the arrangements we have made in order to open the school on Monday 1st June. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to update everyone on the rest of the term ahead and ensure that the wonderful Quinton community remains supported in every way.

The last few months have been challenging for everyone and I reiterate again my sincere gratitude to you all for your invaluable support, when many of you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare. As a whole community we have embraced the challenges with which we have been faced and I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved.

Over the last few weeks, we have been preparing meticulously for the reopening. On Thursday it was confirmed that schools would reopen on the 1st June, for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We held a live Teams meeting last Monday for all relevant families (thank you for taking the time out of your bank holiday Monday to be part of this), outlining the measures we have and are putting into place. We have been working hard, following all the latest government guidance, to develop and implement several new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures which will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting. First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. As Principal of Quinton House, and as a mother, I take my responsibility to lead this school extremely seriously and work tirelessly to ensure the safety of everyone. We have created two booklets, which I hope you will read (one directed towards parents and another for our students, who will be returning to school). These booklets have already been sent to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 6.

Over the last couple of weeks members of staff and I have been reorganising the Preparatory school both within and outside; creating bubble areas in which the children can work and play, whilst adhering to all social distancing guidelines. We have also created a well being walk for students and staff. This has been a meticulous operation and I thank all the staff who have in addition, given up their Half Term break to help me with this. It would also be right to remind you, that we have not closed since the 23rd March. We have continued to be open for the children of Key Workers, throughout all of the holiday periods. I am immensely proud of all our staff, who continue to go above and beyond in ensuring we do our very best for your child.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- Keeping our children in small bubbles, with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- Classrooms have been rearranged so that appropriate distance is maintained.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including tables, door handles play equipment etc. This has always been part of the general cleaning regime, but it has been happening on a more regular basis since lockdown. We have employed additional cleaning staff to mitigate the risk even further.
- Visitors to the site during this period will be by appointment only. Parents/Guardians are always able to contact us and arrange meetings via Teams/telephone.

- Asking parents/guardians to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off. We have marshals at all entry and exit points, directing traffic and ensuring no gatherings within the car park.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the setting.

Further details can be found within the relevant booklets.

The success of our online learning now means that the decision regarding whether to send your child back into school is a much harder one. I would like to assure everyone that we will be continuing with our online learning for those children who are unable to return to school and for all other years within the school.

Sometimes it is hard to realise that life is continuing at Quinton in other ways to ensure we provide the best opportunities for your child. I would like to update you on progress on a few of the developments here:

On Monday our own specialist teams will be on site (adhering to all social distancing and government guidelines) to commence work on refurbishing the classrooms in the Sports Hall, as well as laying the foundations for the new Music Cabin, Discovery Hub and Café. In addition, the refurbishment of the girls' toilets will take place in the Senior School. The boys' toilets have already been completed. The extension to the dining room will be started to allow outdoor seating for our students. The cricket nets will be erected during this term (We are awaiting final planning permission on this). On the 24th June 2020, we are holding our virtual transition day for all new students and for students moving up a year. Further details are being sent out this week regarding this.

I would like to welcome Mr Chris George (Director of Sixth Form) who officially starts on Monday 1st June. I am sure you will join me in welcoming him into our community. Unfortunately, Mrs Whitehouse will be unable to teach this week, so Mr George will be teaching science and also assisting with year 6 within the classroom with Mrs Saghri. Miss Cheney will continue to teach online from home. All classes on site will have additional members of staff to ensure all needs are met.

I hope that this letter has given you the information and reassurance you need in order to understand the arrangements we have for all children from the 1st June. We are looking forward to welcoming your children back into school, or continuing with on-line learning. I hope you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to secure the safety of all concerned.

Finally, may I draw your attention to the continuing need to monitor and address the sustained emotional well-being of all at Quinton House School. We remain far from normal life and, despite the gradual easing of the Lockdown restrictions, the enduring toll on the well-being of us all must not be underestimated. The importance of kindness and compassion remain high on our list of priorities, in all that we do. As a community we have shown such support for each other. Let us never forget that it is the simple things in life that we do for someone that can make such a difference.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With warmest wishes,



Mrs Jo Storey
Principal