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## Planning for a safe, phased return to school

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

We are sure that you have been watching the latest announcements on releasing the national lockdown, including the proposed phased return to schools from the 1st June 2020. Our schools and Headteachers are very aware of the need to ease our children back into school safely, in a way which supports children, families, staff and the wider community.

Throughout this pandemic, all schools have arranged for the safe on-site education of vulnerable children and the children of key workers while providing remote support for all other pupils. As this continues, new work is being done within our schools to make the right decisions for a safe return for your child and their friends. This includes coordinating information and ideas across schools and the sector. The local authority has already written to the Secretary of State for Education seeking further clarity about the guidance and we are committed to continue to seek that clarity to support the decisions of local school leaders.

Over the past few days it has become clear that all schools in the Borough are different and have to respond to the unique challenges posed by their environment. This means that the way a school delivers education will vary and your child may experience a different school provision to friends in other schools. It will unfortunately be different to the provision they are used to in school.

To help schools plan their return we have worked with them to share ideas and information which captures the best knowledge from all schools. We will continue to keep this work going to enable schools to refine their practice once classrooms begin to re-open. All schools will continue to provide a blend of remote and in-school learning (where it is required and safe to do so) until the summer holiday so that all pupils continue to learn.

The government has said that 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 is the date from which schools will start to welcome more children back, however this is currently not confirmed. Please do not send your children to school until directly contacted by your school.

We appreciate your support as you decide what to do in the current climate. The Borough's schools are committed to providing a safe environment and we all want to ensure that your children are safe, learning and thriving.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Stuart Carroll.

Handwritten signature of Kevin McDaniel.

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