

# Swanland Education Trust

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Mr Chris Huscroft  
Chief Executive Officer

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent and Carers

Firstly, on behalf of my colleagues and I, can I thank you for your unwavering support of our schools over the past months. In return we hope that the support and guidance given to you and your families has been helpful throughout these difficult times.

We wrote out to you towards the end of last week, detailing the information that we had to date and what steps, as a trust we were taking to support the schools in being able to begin wider opening, should the government deem it safe to do so, from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

By now you will have heard that across the country Local Authorities (LAs) have been advising their schools not to begin wider opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June and yesterday, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC), joined those LAs in giving the same advice to all their schools, including academies. Eoin Rush and Deborah Myers wrote out to ERYC schools and academies to share some important updates from their work and discussions with Public Health. Through their careful risk assessment of our local context and considering the concerns, health and wellbeing of children, parents and carers, school leaders, staff and wider stakeholders they are now advising that schools should not begin wider opening until at least 8<sup>th</sup> June AND if the government are satisfied that it is safe to do so.

It is therefore the Trust's decision that we support this stance and take their advice very seriously. As a Local Authority, they are in constant discussions with Public Health and the government about the local context, we feel at best it would be foolish and at worst negligent for us to go against this advice. Our first priority has to be the safety and wellbeing of our children and wider stakeholders – not one of us would be able to live with our conscience knowing we had disregarded this advice and subsequently had a member of our trust family exposed to a serious virus.

We recognise that for many families it will come as a disappointment, reading that our schools will not begin to be available for your children from 1<sup>st</sup> June; it was for this reason that we asked you to exercise caution when speaking with your children in our letter to you last week.

However, please be reassured that the wonderful provision that has been provided to you all so far will continue to be in place up until the point where we are able to invite those selected year groups back in to school, schools will then detail how they will be working once this has begun. Of course, we will continue to offer Key Worker families and those who are vulnerable, the provision of childcare if it is needed.

Once again, please accept my most sincere thanks for your patience and understanding throughout this most unusual time in our lives. Stay well everyone.

Yours sincerely  
Chris Huscroft  
CEO

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Chris Huscroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "C".