

# The Compass Partnership of Schools

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**Trust Leader:** John Camp



Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you all following the Government's announcement yesterday that primary schools will not be expected to open to more year groups before the summer. I know that many of you would have been hoping that your child would be able to return to school at the end of June following the Prime Minister's earlier announcement, and will be disappointed that this will no longer be the case.

The Government has decided that more children will no longer be able to return because this would be impossible within the current guidance based on scientific advice. This guidance stipulates that there can be no more than 15 children in a class bubble and that the adults and children in each of these groups cannot mix at all with other class bubbles. In practice, this means that we need two classrooms and two teachers for each 'old class' of 30 children, and you can therefore see that schools have quickly run out of the class space and adults that would be required to achieve this. Our schools have already opened to all of the identified year groups.

In his announcement yesterday, the Secretary of State for Education said that there will be flexibility for schools to open to more year groups if this was at all possible within the confines of the current guidance and if space and staffing allowed. On this basis, the Government will devise a priority list, agreed with Public Health England, so that where schools have capacity, they can welcome back more children this term. We expect this list to be published by next week. Currently, most of our schools are operating at full capacity. We will review the situation this week and will work with Trustees to decide on the best way forward this Friday. We will then communicate with you all on the situation for the rest of this term.

If any of our schools have the space and staffing available to welcome more children back, then we will most definitely do this. Each school will communicate this with their communities, and this will be based on the Government's priority order list which is published next week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in the meantime should you have any questions or points to raise. Thank you for your continued engagement with the Compass online offer and the Essentials Curriculum that underpins this. We have been consulting with the Compass Parent Forum on a fortnightly basis regarding this and they have been invaluable in helping us shape it.

Best wishes to you all.

John Camp