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22nd May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

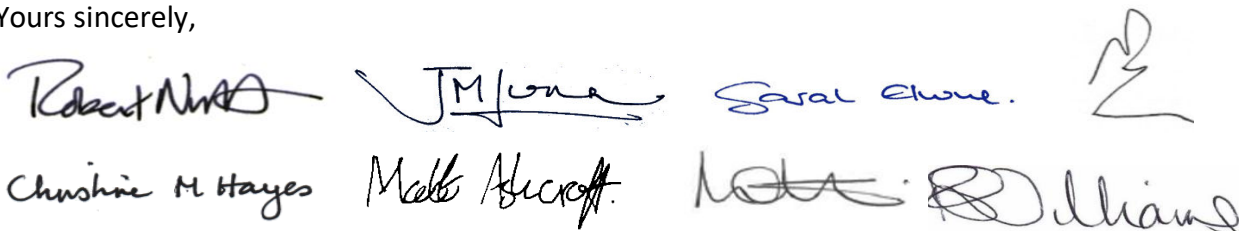
As Chairs of Governors of the schools in the Herefordshire Marches Federation of Academies we are writing to you today to communicate our shared response to the government's aim for schools in England to begin to reopen on June 1st. You will by now have received a letter from Peter Box or Maggi Newton outlining the plans for reopening the nine HMFA schools and stating clearly the criteria for reopening. They have our full support as governors for this approach.

It has been a challenging time for us all: for the children, for you as parents and carers and for staff in schools. We as governors have been pleased and encouraged at the school communities' positive response to the challenges and we thank you all for your support throughout the past months. We are proud that the schools within the federation have worked so well together to provide both for children of key workers and for children being home schooled. Staff have continued to plan and deliver education for all children; in school, online and over the phone. We appreciate the positive feedback from parents regarding teachers' support for pupils throughout the pandemic.

On May 10th the government announced that it wanted schools to prepare for partial reopening, ideally from June 1st. Since that time the HMFA leadership team have been considering how this might be possible in each school. This is a complex process. The context of each school is different, the changing picture nationally is one over which we have no control and the circumstances in which we find ourselves are new to us all. We therefore ask that you, as parents, continue to show your support and understanding for the staff who are working so hard to manage many varied and completely new demands on their expertise and time. Please be assured that planning and preparation for the reopening of all nine schools is well under way and that our first priority in all the planning is the safety of pupils, families and staff. Each school will only open when the criteria outlined in Peter Box and Maggi Newton's letter are met. We want to reopen our schools as soon as is possible but we are determined to do all that is needed to manage the risks.

Thank you all again for your ongoing support. Please be assured that governors will continue to work with staff to provide the best solutions we can to the challenges schools face.

Yours sincerely,



Robert N... JM... Sarah...
Christine M Hayes Mark Ascroft... Williams

