



04.06.20

Dear Parents and Carers

The wider opening of Ironstone Academy Trust Schools

Your child's Head Teacher and Local Governing Body have spent a significant amount of time preparing for the wider opening of your child's school; this has involved consultation, undertaking detailed planning (and the associated training of staff), as well as the preparation of each school building and site. I am pleased to inform you that these plans have now been approved by Trustees.

You will be aware that our schools have remained open since the beginning of the pandemic, providing childcare for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable families. We have also offered home learning guidance and activities, to all our families. I am proud of this work, and our contribution to our community's well-being.

Across the Trust our staff have been working hard to ensure school remains as safe as possible during the pandemic. Each school will continue to operate within its own unique circumstances. Attached to this letter are details from your child's Head Teacher of the arrangements that will apply within your school, as we welcome more children into each building. We have considered the needs of each community, our families, available staff and the constraints of the individual school sites.

Our priority remains the safety of all our pupils and staff. As a Trust we have worked with the Local Authority to develop Risk Assessments to support this process. There will now be a period of phased expansion, which is detailed in the attached letter. Consultation with staff will continue, and we will refine our plans over the coming weeks. Through this process will listen carefully to the concerns of our parents and staff, developing medical advice, and that from professional bodies and Trade Unions. Thank you for your continued effort in supporting your child working from home. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.

In the attached letter your child's Head Teacher makes clear our expectations in respect of a number of key issues, including:

- **School Opening Times**
- **School Arrival and Pick up Arrangements**
- **The Organisation of Children in school**
- **Behaviour**
- **Attendance**
- **Break times and lunch times**
- **Catering arrangements**
- **Use of Equipment**
- **Uniform and items from Home**
- **Learning Provision**
- **Contact with School**
- **Safety and Handwashing**
- **Pupil illness**

If a child becomes unwell at school, parents will be asked to collect them immediately. We therefore need you to be contactable at all times. Your child will be kept in isolation with a member of staff while we wait for your arrival – you may drive into the school car park, if your school has one. When coronavirus is suspected, the staff member will be wearing a disposable apron, gloves and mask.

Any child or staff member with symptoms consistent with coronavirus will need to isolate for seven days and their fellow household members for fourteen days. Where a staff member or child tests negative for coronavirus, they may return to school and their household members may end their isolation. Where a staff member or child tests positive for coronavirus, the rest of the group (bubble) will be sent home and asked to isolate for fourteen days.

You should expect that our curriculum will be restricted at this time, and we will seek to maintain the provision of home learning tasks. Staff and pupils will be encouraged to wash their hands more frequently with instructions displayed in the toilets. Pupils will be encouraged to catch and bin any coughs and sneezes.

In order to protect the well-being and safety of our staff and pupils, I must emphasise the need for everyone to follow the social distancing measures as outlined by the government. We will not hesitate to refuse entry to school for any child whose family, including older siblings, are found to be ignoring social distancing rules.

All contact with school is via telephone and email. Parents/Carers are not permitted in the school building without an appointment. In an emergency you will be able to go to the Office, but will need to follow social distancing guidelines, and wait outside for a member of staff to be free to speak to you.

These remain challenging times for our communities. Our next Trust wide update will be sent on 18 June, or earlier if required. Your schools will send other information in the interim. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head Teacher by email or phone.

Yours Sincerely
Carl Faulkner
CEO IAT