



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

Headteacher: Sunil Chotai, BSc

15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday outlining the government's intention to gradually open schools from 1st June 2020 and the subsequent DfE publication of guidance providing schools with further details.

The government guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>) published to schools on Monday evening is asking:

- Primary schools to welcome back children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6.
- Secondary schools to begin some face to face support with years 10 and 12.

Currently we are considering at both schools how we can best achieve this in our own context. As you can imagine, there are many details to consider. We will contact all parents and carers before half-term with arrangements that will be introduced from 1st June.

It is important to reassure parents and carers that whilst we are very determined and keen to open both schools in line with government guidelines we can only do this successfully if we are able to:

- Safeguard the health and well-being of our school community properly
- Ensure that our students' overall ability to learn in school and remotely is maximised

In this regard we will need to rely on parent/carer support considerably especially in terms of ensuring that children's journey into school adheres to the principles of social distancing as set out by government and to good hygiene that has already been explained before. We will write to you again later with more details of arrangements and guidance on how parents can help.

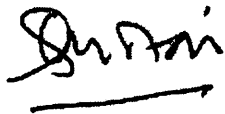
We are very pleased with the way that so many of our students have responded to the challenges posed by the school closure and remote working. We are aware that many families have been impacted by illness and in some sad cases have lost family members. In spite of this gloomy context our students have risen to the challenges well. The level of engagement from the vast majority of pupils has been very good.

When school begins to open partially we will continue to set work to be completed remotely and our expectation will be that students will continue with the work set, those students who are invited into school will also need to continue with work remotely.

We are expecting further information and clarification from the Department of Education in response to the questions raised by teaching unions in relation to necessary protective measures.

We will keep you informed of developments. In the meantime, thank you for your wonderful support, at times like this it underlines to us what a super community we work with.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sunil Chotai', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sunil Chotai
CEO/Headteacher
Charles Darwin School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ellis', written in a cursive style.

James Ellis
Headteacher
Biggin Hill Primary School