



PONTEFRACT
ACADEMIES TRUST

23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I hope that this letter finds you and your family in good health in what are the most challenging of times for all of us. I would like to thank all stakeholders for their support and generosity of spirit as we all deal with the complex and fast-moving challenges currently presented to us.

New guidance was issued last night from the Government around school closures and vulnerable children, and please note that it is explicit saying that:

"We have asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society."

Across the Trust we have been constantly reviewing and monitoring the situation in each of our schools. We have been determined to maintain frequent communication through the usual channels and will continue to do so. We have only small numbers of pupils in our schools currently as a result of parents and carers clearly following the Government guidance to keep children at home unless their work is critical to the COVID-19 response.

From **Tuesday 24th March** it is our intention to open four of our schools in line with Government guidance to prioritise support for pupils and their families.

Please note the following arrangements that will be in place from tomorrow (Tuesday 24th March):

- Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School will remain open and house pupils from Larks Hill Junior and Infant School, Carleton Park Junior and Infant School, as well as Halfpenny Lane pupils. Please note that Larks Hill and Carleton Park will be closed from tomorrow until further notice. Halfpenny Lane will open at 8.50am and close at 3.20pm.
- De Lacy Primary School will remain open and house pupils from The Rookeries Junior, Infant and Nursery School, as well as De Lacy. Please note that The Rookeries will be closed from tomorrow until further notice. De Lacy will open from 8.40am and close at 3.15pm.
- Carleton High School will remain open and house pupils from The King's School, as well as Carleton High School. The King's School will remain closed until further notice. Carleton High School will be open at 8.30am and close at 3.05pm.
- Orchard Head Junior, Infant and Nursery School will remain open. Normal times apply for Orchard Head pupils.

Currently breakfast clubs will remain open for this week, in the first instance, whilst we continue to monitor staffing. Similarly, the canteen at Carleton High School will be open as normal.

If you are a critical worker and wish to discuss some flexibility here, please email the relevant school for your child (email addresses provided below) in the first instance and we will do whatever we can to accommodate.

Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant & Nursery School – admin@halfpenny.patrust.org.uk

De Lacy Primary School – admin@delacy.patrust.org.uk

Carleton High School – admin@carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk

Orchard Head Junior, Infant & Nursery School – admin@orchardhead.patrust.org.uk


Parents and carers should be assured that social distancing measures are in place in the schools and, staff rotas and teams have ensured that pupils will be with staff from their own school irrespective of the fact they will be attending a different location.

The provision that we have established above has been done so in partnership with Wakefield Local Authority. We have remained in very close communication with our partners at the Local Authority over the last week, as we have worked on pragmatic solutions to support the national emergency.

Once again, thank you for your support and the positive messages that our front-line staff and leaders have received in the last week. They have been outstanding in their dedication and civic duty.

My very best wishes to you and your family.

Yours faithfully,

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

Julian Appleyard OBE
Chief Executive Officer