



15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well. I am writing to let you know what is happening at The Livity School after the announcement by the Government this week about the proposed wider opening of schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Schools have been asked to start planning for opening, but this does not mean that all schools will be open to children on this date. There are lots of risk assessments to be completed and conditions we must meet to keep pupils and staff safe, before we can realistically open the school. I am working with the local authority and the other special school headteachers on this.

For the present time, Livity staff will continue to call all of you twice a week and will keep you updated on any news. I know that some of you have expressed concern about whether attendance at school after half term, if we were to open, would be compulsory as you wished to keep your child at home. Please do not worry about this. We will, of course, continue to set tasks and provide resources for home learning. Next week, we are expecting to be able to deliver free breakfast packs to all our pupils' homes.

The new Government guidance for special schools says – '*special schools are to work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups and informed by risk assessments*' and '*children [classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](#) have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category*'. We know that this applies to a number of Livity children.

Elm Court School continues to be open and there are some children of key workers from The Livity attending. Next week, two more Livity children will be joining. Please let me or the member of staff who usually calls you twice a week know if you are a key worker and would like a place for your child. Some places could also be available for children who are having difficulties staying at home. This is dependent on a risk assessment and staff from Livity being available. I am always here at Elm Court School when the children are on site.

Please do contact me if you have any questions on 0208 674 3412 or 07385 658289 during school time.

Take care and best wishes,

Joanna Tarrant

Executive Headteacher