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Dear Parents/Carers,

We wanted to write to you with more information from St Benet's MAT, the Multi-Academy Trust of which your child's school is a part of, around opening to more children in September or in some instances before.

As you will probably know the government has asked that specific groups of children are prioritised as schools have opened up to more pupils. This includes children of key workers, those classed as vulnerable and children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This priority, along with the maximum numbers allowable in each class, or bubble (15), has not been changed by government.

Although some academies have extra space to enable them to start bringing back children outside of these priority groups this term, many do not. The guidance, which we must follow, makes it clear that the priority groups remain.

You will also have heard of the government wish that all pupils return in September. This is an ambition which we share as a Trust. We await details of how this can be implemented, but it is clear that it will involve changes to the maximum class or bubble size. This change to guidance has NOT yet taken place, meaning severe limitations remain around welcoming more pupils back now. Guidance does not also change on 4 July, when more general social distancing measures will be relaxed nationally. We ask for your ongoing understanding in this issue and appreciate how difficult this might be for you and your family, particularly as more of us return more fully to work.

Your academy will contact you about plans for September as soon as government guidance is published and they have a chance to plan for wider re-opening.

Thanks for your ongoing support in this matter, it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Cranmer
St Benet's MAT Chief Executive Officer