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Dear Families,

We hope that you have managed to relax and enjoy some time with family and friends over the summer break.

Developments in our academies over the summer

The Central Team worked throughout the summer break and a lot of projects have been completed across the Trust.

Fernhill has completed their transition to 'The Ferns Primary Academy', with a logo, uniform, new signage and website. We will be celebrating this with families on their return on Friday 3rd September.

One area of focus has been the renovation of the swimming pool at The Ferns. We are hopeful that the pool will reopen soon, and we will be able to offer swimming lessons to children across the Trust.

As a result of a generous donation of computers from a local company who were upgrading their equipment, and the hard work of our central IT Team, we have installed an IT suite for the children at The Ferns. It is also planned to use more of these donated computers to improve the equipment across our other academies. The team were also busy installing Interactive Whiteboards at Sandringham, Hale and Holly Lodge, completing the Wi-fi upgrades at Sandringham, Mytchett and Hale, along with iPad upgrades at Lakeside and Wyke.

We have used this time to complete estates work that had started at our academies through the successful Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bids in 2020/21 and carry our pre-start preparation meetings for the successful 2021/22 CIF bids. Below is the stage that we are with the CIF funded projects.

Kite CIF Funded Projects 2020/2021		Kite CIF Funded Projects 2021/22	
Sandringham – Safeguarding/Security Sandringham – Fire Risk Assessment Works	Completed Summer 2021	Mytchett – Boilers Roofing	Nearing completion Works currently being undertaken on site Nursery/Main School
Fernhill – Security	Completed	Cross Farm – Boilers Window Replacement	Pre-Start Meetings on both projects – projects to commence Autumn term
Grove – Roofing Works Fire Risk Assessment Works	Completed On-going	Wyke – Safeguarding/Security	Pre-Start Meeting – project to commence Autumn term
Holly Lodge – Fire Risk Assessment Works	Completed		
Mytchett – Safeguarding/Security Works	Completed		
Wyke – Roofing	Completed		

COVID-19 Guidance

The new guidance from the Government sets out new measures that must be in place to protect against further spread of COVID-19 on our return to school. The restrictions are fewer than previously but we want to ensure that we keep everyone safe as we return to school.

There is no longer a requirement for 'bubbles' during the school day or at our wrap around care clubs. This will mean that we have more flexibility for teaching groups and it will also ease organisation at lunchtimes.

Individuals will no longer be required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are in close contact with someone with COVID-19 as long as one of the following apply:

- They are fully vaccinated
- They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- They have taken part or are in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- They are not able to be vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact and advised to take a PCR test. **Children who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as usual.**

Our staff will continue with some of the control measures that were in place before the summer break to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. These will include:

- Good hygiene through washing hands regularly and good respiratory hygiene in terms of “catch it, bin it, kill it.” We would ask that you also remind your child about these so that they continue to become regular practice. There is no longer a requirement for staff and visitors to wear face coverings.
- We will continue to maintain appropriate cleaning regimes to ensure the cleanliness of the classroom and equipment that is used by the children.
- When the school is in operation, we will ensure that classrooms are well ventilated but are also kept at a comfortable temperature for teaching and learning to take place.

We will continue to work with Health Protection Teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in the school, or if the Government offers an enhanced response package, a Director of Public Health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures. Your Academy Head will inform you if this occurs.

We will also continue to follow any changes to the guidance from Public Health England (PHE) but currently no individual should come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or have other reasons that could risk them passing on COVID-19 e.g. they are required to quarantine.

We will send home any child who develops symptoms and would ask you to come and collect as quickly as possible if you are contacted. All members of the household, including siblings, should follow the new PHE guidance for households with a possible or confirmed case and get a PCR test. They should self-isolate and get a PCR test, while awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) they should attend their academy unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or specialist not to attend. If this is the case, please meet with your Academy Head to discuss the situation.

Our Heads are planning to have some events that you will be invited into school for but please understand that we will need to judge each event for the safety of everyone and take in to account the climate at the time. Keeping children in school is our priority and with that in mind we will carefully consider whole school events.

Our wrap-around care facilities will continue to be available and children are not required to stay within the bubble structure when attending breakfast or after-school clubs.

Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by PHE, the academy will ensure that remote education is available while at home. Please keep in touch with your child’s teacher to support this.

Please bear in mind that if you are planning to travel abroad, the travel policy is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red. The impact of this may result in the requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return. Travel lists may change during a visit and you must comply with international travel legislation and should have contingency plans in place to account for these changes.

We would like to welcome back all our families and a special warm welcome to our new families. We are hoping that this academic year is less disrupted than the last two years, but know that if there are any challenges to be faced, by working together, we will overcome these.

Yours Sincerely,



Christine Dickinson

CEO The Kite Academy Trust

