

Hartford Manor Primary School and Nursery

"Learning Together for Life"

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Sunday 7 June 2020

To all staff, parents and carers at Hartford Manor

Dear friends,

Re: Coronavirus Update

You may have seen in the news that many schools in the North West of England have decided to delay re-opening until 22 June (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-52947753>). Yesterday, Cheshire West and Chester Council wrote to all schools, recognising that while many headteachers believe "there should now be a delay for two weeks", they will "continue to support headteachers to make their own judgement, based on their own schools' circumstances".

This morning, the full governing body met and agreed that our school will partially re-open from tomorrow as previously planned. We have done this because we are satisfied that the school has taken every reasonable step to keep our school community as safe as possible. The new sinks are in place, our "bubbles" are ready to be filled and carefully updated policies and procedures will keep us all operating within the latest and best health advice. With the backing of the staff, we have decided to proceed with caution.

These decisions are finely balanced. Like most schools we are adopting a vigilant and flexible approach that can respond quickly to changing circumstances. We are all having to learn how to manage risk in new ways, and doubtless some will disagree with our decision. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all families that for the rest of this term at least, parents and carers will have an absolute right to choose to keep their child at home. Please do continue to respect those who come to different decisions.

We have been heartened by the supportive and sensible approach our families have shown. Our school rules – "be kind, be safe, be ready" – have never been more important. We are all longing for the day when we shall once again be "learning **together** for life" at Hartford Manor, and this gradual re-opening is, we hope, a safe step towards that.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Simon Kidwell
Headteacher

Rev Mike Smith
Chair of Governors