



**Park Avenue Base:** Park Avenue, Staines upon Thames, Middlesex TW18 2EF  
**Knowle Green Base:** Knowle Green, Staines upon Thames, Middlesex TW18 1AJ  
**Telephone:** 01784 227960  
**Fax:** 01784 463793  
**E-mail:** office.riverbridge@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk  
**Website:** www.riverbridgeprimary.co.uk

**Headteacher: Mr P Grimwood BA(hons) NPQH**  
**Executive Principal: Mrs M E McCarthy MA Ed.M**

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this finds you all well.

I write to add further detail to the letter sent by Mrs. McCarthy yesterday. Firstly, I would like to make it clear that Mrs. McCarthy did not make any unilateral decisions about the reopening of schools in the Trust. The Lumen Learning Trust is unique in that it is run with a very flat leadership structure and the Heads of the schools meet twice a week at present to thrash out our approach to the Government guidelines.

All five of the leadership teams agreed that it was best to re-open with Year 6 classes to begin with. Once the success of this has been assessed, each school will be well placed to make a decision about which year group they welcome back next and how quickly. This approach affords each leadership team the time to check that they have all the right procedures in place and that the children can actually follow them.

Please be reassured, the school has conducted a thorough risk assessment and we are revisiting this regularly as further information is shared with us. The model we have devised, which is for children's part-time attendance in their own classroom, is scalable, meaning that if it works well, we can quickly and safely welcome other year groups back to school.

As I am sure you will understand, the situation is continually evolving. The Government said that schools had three weeks to prepare and yet only issued significant guidance at the end of the first week. In order to prepare my staff and school for a safe re-opening, I have taken decisions based on the intelligence available. I will continue to review the guidance and make adaptations to our offer as appropriate. As soon as there is more information to share and more details around these plans, I will be in contact with you.

It is also key to remember that the guidance is just that. It is not statutory and quite rightly leaves room for individual Headteachers to assess their own site and community needs in judging which aspects can be safely complied with.

I have shared in today's Riverbridge Review further details around our decision making process. I stress again here that the driver in all decisions is the safety of children, staff and parents on the school site. Mental health and well-being are also paramount and I appreciate the concerns you all have around the schooling that is being missed. I share all these concerns.

I hope that this letter goes some way to offering you greater insight into my thinking at this time. Every Headteacher in the country is wrestling with the guidance and their own conscience throughout every day and I can assure you, all of my decisions are made with the interests of your children at heart.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school should you wish to using the school's email address above

Your sincerely,

Paul Grimwood  
Headteacher

Lumen Learning Trust, c/o Saxon Primary School, Briar Road, Shepperton TW17 0JB

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