

12 May 2020

**Outwood Academy Bydales**

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Principal: Ms Seana Rice

Dear Parent/Carers

The Prime Minister announced on Sunday 10 May 2020 that the government believes that it may be in a position to implement a phased approach to reopening schools from 1 June 2020 starting with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and then progressing to Year 10 and Year 12. This is a part of the government's conditional plan which will remain under regular review.

It is important that we communicate with you to let you know of our plans, once they are developed and in order to answer the many questions that you may have.

**It is important to note that schools are currently legally closed and only open to provide childcare for the children of critical workers, i.e. those children that have already been attending school so that their parents can provide frontline services and vulnerable children. We know that for many of you, you will have the pressures of your own return to work and managing childcare but ask for your understanding and support as we continue to prioritise these key groups. The safest place for children is still at home.**

Whilst we await the detailed guidance on how we should operate once open again, you should rest assured that we will continue to have the highest regard to your child's health and safety. In the meantime, we are working to develop the most sensible solutions. We all have lots of questions at the moment and not enough answers and we ask for your cooperation and patience. We will endeavour to keep you informed of developments as much as possible. Our home learning resources will continue whilst we are in a transition to be fully open: again we know that for those year groups not yet mentioned by the government for a planned return to school that this will be frustrating, and we will do all we can to provide high quality work.

We will continue to put your child's interests first in our decision making and enact the national guidance the very best we can. The community spirit and support for the Academy during the closure has been overwhelming; I speak for all the staff when I offer parents/carers our genuine gratitude for how you have engaged with home-schooling. We appreciate it has not been easy and every step of the way we have tried to adapt our teaching practices, utilise new methods of communication whilst remaining resolute in our resolve to ensure we put Students First. We ask that you continue in your efforts with distance learning, as we will continue to support our students to keep engaged in their education during this time.

Thank you for your continued support; as always, should you need to contact us then please do so via the 'Contact Us' button on the website.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice

Principal  
Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.