



Ravenfield Primary Academy LOCAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Moor Lane North, Ravenfield, Rotherham S65 4LZ

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

I know that everyone will be only too aware that these are unprecedented times in which we are currently living – and events are moving so quickly. Although the announcement about the closure of the nation's schools was only made yesterday afternoon, extensive planning had been going on across Maltby Learning Trust and at Ravenfield to prepare for this eventuality. With all credit to the staff, who I am sure will have been as anxious as you, preparations have been going on behind the scenes whilst continuing to maintain a high degree of 'normality' for the children. Unlike many schools, thankfully only a small number of staff absences have needed to be managed.

Mrs Coates has been in touch with me daily and I know has been keeping you all informed of developments. She has been very touched to receive so many supportive comments from parents and carers at what is a very challenging time for everyone associated with the school, not least yourselves. No one wanted this degree of disruption to children's education but I am confident that everyone will make good use of the learning resources that the staff have been putting together for home learning. This can never replace the experience of learning together with others, but with your help, our children can continue to learn and especially, continue to enjoy and make progress with their reading at home.

At times like this, our hearts go out to everyone affected by this national health emergency which of course can impact disproportionately on the most vulnerable in our communities. I know that Ravenfield Parish Council and associated community groups are planning for assistance that they can offer or co-ordinate and I am confident that our school will be able to contribute to share key messages with you all as required. Staff are currently managing a number of uncertainties, but I am sure that Mr Sutton's letter yesterday will have helped to clarify the Trust's response to managing the provision for those children/families who are exempt from the school closure. I am sure you will understand that advice and guidance to schools is being received all the time at the moment. How fortunate schools are nowadays to have tools like DoJo with which to communicate quickly with families even when the children are not in school!

Dealing with the management of this crisis is clearly an operational matter for trust and academy leaders in which governors would not normally get involved. However, I know I speak on behalf of governors in thanking the Ravenfield staff for their efforts to minimise the disruption to your children's education. Thank you also to you all for your support and understanding during this period of enforced closure. Above all, we hope everyone keeps fit and well and look forward to re-opening the school just as soon as we are permitted to do so.

With best wishes

Liz Buxton

Mrs E M Buxton
Chair of Governors