

28th May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you have all had a good half term and enjoyed time as a family.

I am writing to let you know that after extensive work, planning and much preparation, our schools are getting nearer to be able to extend their offer to more children. The government have stated that they would hope for this to be possible from 1st June but that they also readily understand that all schools are different and have different considerations to make.

As I have said in all communications, we want the best for everyone in as safe an environment as we can possibly make. Nothing we do can take away every risk and we cannot, and will not, promise things that we cannot offer.

We have looked at all of the information and our schools' have made lots of plans and changes but there are still some things that we have little or no control over that mean we still think there are some areas that are stopping us from doing this straight away. Therefore, extending our offer to more children will not start until at least 8th June at the very earliest and we will do everything we can to get to this point, whilst continuing to look at both local and each individual school's needs.

I apologise to those of you who may feel that we should have opened for more pupils next week but we are doing this for the very best for all. Your school will send more information and plans for moving forward for more children that we may be able to accept after 8th June, including new arrangements for dropping off and collecting children and also our new expectations. Any new groups of children that will be returning to school will join those already attending. Obviously, I wanted to let you know as soon as possible. I will be holding more meetings throughout next week and will be able to confirm by Thursday 4th June if we can open to more children in some of our schools the following week. However, as I have always said, the final decision will be for parents to make.

It may be that some critical workers had planned to send their children to school next week to enable them to go into work. If this is the case, please contact your school to see if any arrangements can be made for your children to come into school under the existing arrangements.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your understanding and support at this most difficult time to enable us to do the very best for everyone in our community. As a partnership we will continue to move forward together.



**Confederation
of School Trusts**

Chief Executive Officer **Paul Harris**

The Tapscott Learning Trust, Atlas Road, London E13 0AG

T: 0208 472 0290 **M:** 07983 737 569 **E:** info@ttl.academy **W:** www.ttl.academy



Best wishes,

Paul Harris
CEO of The Tapscott Learning Trust
Executive Head Teacher of Curwen Primary School

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