

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this email finds you and your family safe and healthy. I write with some very good news about Waverley Junior Academy.

We learned on Friday that as a consequence of the determination and hard work of the contractors, the building programme is now only four weeks behind schedule, with an anticipated handover date of September 1<sup>st</sup>. I am sure you will share our sense of relief and excitement about this news!

Whilst our contingency plan remains in place in case there is a further delay due to difficulties with the procurement of building materials, Team ACET are very much focused on doing all that they can to enable us to start the year in our wonderful new building. Working closely with the support of our colleagues at Rotherham, our CEO has begun to make plans to condense the final preparation of the academy (for example, the unpacking and layout of classroom furniture, the unpacking and distribution of resources, deep cleaning and staff orientation etc) into just six days in order that **the academy can open to FS2 to Y6 children from Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>, with FS0 and FS1 being admitted from Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>**. This will require intense effort from the ACET team and will extend into Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>, which I am sure you will agree is testament to the trust's commitment to the Waverley community. We will also need to make an application to the LA for two additional INSET days since the expected start date was Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As you will appreciate, however, even then we may not be able to operate as normal because like all other English schools, WJA will be subject to the restrictions of social distancing that limit children to working with one adult in the same small group, which will have implications for the amount of time children can be accommodated in the academy each week and will prevent us from offering breakfast club or after school activities where children necessarily mix with children from other groups. But please be assured that ACET will strive to make the best possible and most extensive provision for pupils whilst prioritising their Health and Safety. We know that many working parents/carers rely on childcare beyond regular academy hours and will endeavour to meet this need as soon as government restrictions are lifted.

Government guidance also states that children's clothing should be changed and washed immediately after returning home from academy, therefore, ACET has relaxed its Dress Code for pupils, encouraging them instead to wear casual clothing. This will also allow WJA parents/carers to purchase uniform at events hosted by the academy after the restrictions are removed.

We are currently investigating the best method to host Meet Your Teacher sessions through use of technology rather than face to face meetings which would contravene social distancing requirements, and we will be in touch in due course.

I hope you are as pleased and excited as we are at the prospect of commencing the new academic year in our own building. I will be working with academy leaders and staff from June onwards with the aim of providing our children with a highly engaging and positive experience from the very first day onwards, despite the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves. We want our pupils to love Waverley Junior Academy as much as we do!

Very best wishes,

Cathryn Keeton  
Principal Designate  
Waverley Junior Academy