Message from the Chief Executive

Dear Parents and Carers

We now know it is the government’s plan that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term. The guidance, which was published on 2nd July, contains important information for parents and carers.

For all of us working in schools, this is very welcome news indeed but it is not without its challenges. The guidance requires each school to take a set of actions, summarised in the nine points below, which is the Public Health advice to minimise risks:

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<th>System of controls</th>
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<td><strong>Prevention:</strong></td>
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<td>1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school</td>
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<td>2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual</td>
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<td>3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach</td>
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<td>4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach</td>
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<td>5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible</td>
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<td>6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)</td>
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Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

**Response to any infection:**

7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.
This is an exercise in the balance of risk – how to balance and minimise any risks from the coronavirus with providing the curriculum. So, number 5 is pivotal – we must make our best endeavours to minimise contact and create distancing wherever possible, while delivering the curriculum. We are being asked to implement sensible and proportionate control measures which follow the system of controls to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level.

We are familiar with this and have been implementing these measures successfully throughout the lockdown, initially in our key worker provision and then for the wider opening of our schools from 8th June. The main differences in the new guidance are that children can be taught in larger ‘bubbles’ than is currently the case and staff can move between groups.

All our schools are hard at work planning for pupils’ return and once again the safety of pupils and staff is paramount in our thinking. As a trust we are planning to ensure that staff are trained in the new systems that will be in place and all pupils attend an induction session before our schools open fully. This will all take place in the week commencing 1st September with the intention that all children will be back full time in the week commencing 8th September. Each headteacher/principal will shortly be writing to parents/carers with the detail of when each year group will return in his/her school.

All our planning is subject to a rigorous risk assessment process that will be scrutinised and signed off by the trust board. The board is meeting to undertake this work in the week commencing 20th July and we are planning to communicate the detailed plans for each school to parents/carers by the end of that week. As was the case with the earlier re-opening plans, the full risk assessment for each school will also be available to view on the trust website.

We are very aware that some children will find the return to school difficult and will shortly be sending out a questionnaire to parents/carers that will help us to assess each individual child’s needs. Each school will be looking very carefully at how it can support children’s emotional needs as this will be an essential part of helping them to get back into learning. There is a wealth of material available to help schools do this and I would like to share with you a useful publication from the Department for Education that has been sent to schools.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all children and young people who are leaving us the very best for their future and to thank them for the contribution they have made to their school. For a number of our young people, the end of term is also the end of their school career. It has certainly been a very strange end to their time in school and one they will never forget I’m sure. For those pupils receiving GCSE and A Level results in August, I hope they are what they need to take them on the next stage of their journey. On Friday 10th July at 10am, the Prime Minister will be giving an address to all school leavers which will be broadcast on Facebook and YouTube and I would encourage them to watch this.

Finally, I would like to thank all parent/carers for their support throughout the year but particularly over the period of lockdown. It has been a challenging time in many respects but it has helped to emphasise how important the link between home and school is in ensuring a child’s success. We are so looking forward to welcoming your children back to school in September and to continuing to develop this partnership with you.

With thanks and best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive
Performance Poetry Competition

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Performance Poetry Competition. It was really difficult to pick the winners as you all performed extremely well! Thank you to the Year 12 pupils at Wellsway, who took the time to judge the competition - it was great to hear your comments on the entries and to Miss Pilkington, from St John’s, for organising the competition.

**KS1**
- 1st - Amari (Chandag Infant)
- 2nd - Lettie (Meadows)
- 3rd - William (St Johns)

**LKS2**
- 1st - Jess (Saltford)
- 2nd - Evie (Chandag Junior)
- 3rd - Greta (St Johns)

**UKS2**
- 1st - Dylan (Chandag Junior)
- 2nd - Louis (St Johns)
- 3rd - Freya (Meadows)

Unfortunately we can’t send the winners a certificate but they can download and print their own Performance Poetry Competition customised certificates (Pdf)
Chandag Junior School

Life has been very busy for Chandag Junior school Year 6 as they have settled really well into school life. As well as working on their maths, English and completing transition work ready for secondary school, our wonderful Year 6 pupils have been doing lots of tasks to celebrate Children’s Art week. There has been some excellent work produced which we have proudly displayed in our school.

Chandag School Hub for Key workers

This week the children have been finding out about how the Olympic Games started and all about the values of this very famous sporting event. The children made their own Olympic torches which will be used when they have a socially-distancing Olympic games at the end of the week.
Chandag Infant School Arts Week

Children learning at home and in school have been taking part in Arts week. Our brilliant staff have been guided by our Art Curriculum lead and have made Blue Peter style 'how to' videos for children to access at home and in school.

The vision has been to support children with their skills of independence, resilience as well as creativity through the context of art.

This has been inspirational for both staff and pupils alike; it's helped with the feeling of 'togetherness' which is much needed at the moment.
St John’s Primary

Year 6 at St John's have enjoyed putting together some dances and messages to go in their leavers’ video!

Wansdyke Primary

Children at Wansdyke have continued to enjoy working outside, which has included their learning of numbers.
The children at Saltford Primary have had another super week. We have welcomed back children from Year groups not currently in school for Circle Times and playtimes and online learning on Seesaw has continued to be inspiring. At school Reception children have enjoyed their pirate theme and have loved receiving messages from pirate themed visitors! Year 1 have continued with a summer theme including making some delicious fruit kebabs. In the keyworker hub the theme has been “Animals”. The children have been exploring the different habitats and lifestyles of a variety of animals in the wild. They created portraits of animals using symmetry and created origami animals with fantastic results! Our Year 6 pods have continued their work on the Black Lives Matter movement. Discussions, artwork and persuasive writing have all been very powerful. As they reach the end of their time in Primary School, they are also reflecting on their time with us and continuing to look forward with their transition work.
Key Worker Provision

The key worker provision in our schools has been in place since the very start of the lockdown. We currently have well over 200 pupils accessing this provision daily. As we approach our last week we received a pertinent comment from a parent of a pupil at SBL:

"Thank you for everything the school has been doing for their keyworker pupils during this difficult time. Thanks to the keyworker provision, I've been able to do my job as a nurse."

Parent of a SBL student

Our NQT Graduates

On Wednesday 1st July the Trust celebrated, via Zoom, the successful completion of NQT induction for 26 of our NQTs across 11 of our schools.

Congratulations to them all and we wish them all the best in their future teaching careers.
Design Competition

A summer term Design competition was set, which closed on the 15th June 2020.

We were delighted to have entries from across key stages and amazed by the quality of the work we received.

The challenge was:

Design a product that will help people in one of the following contexts: Home office, family living, (playful) family activities, boredom, home exercising, and social distancing.

Key Stage 1 Winner: Morwenna and Elowen Blatchford, both aged 6. It was too difficult to distinguish an outright winner between the two. We were amazed by the quality of the two designs, accompanied annotation and descriptions. Both found the time to realise their design ideas as models.

Key stage 2 Winner: Sophia Milson, Year 4, who produced a creative magnetic set of fridge knobs, one for each family to use, preventing the spread of coronavirus by touch, we thought the idea had far reaching possibilities and could be developed and used in many other circumstances.
National Writing Day Challenge 2020

The Year 9 pupils at Wellsway School were tasked with writing 24 words in 7 minutes, starting with ‘One Day’.

One day, I wake invisible, anonymous alienated to the world around me. The ping of coins silently deafening me as I wait…

Alex Rimell

"One day, we’ll expand the base, piled high with stones it wasn’t meant for. Seemingly huge, we never considered the implications of the future."

Laurie Fay

One day all will be fine,
To juxtapose this moment in time.
Just as ere the lockdown hit,
Light will shine over darkness again.

Adam Leaper

WMAT Music Competition

Our congratulations to everyone who sent in a performance for the Music Competition. Our judging panel consisted Music Director of Northern Ballet and member of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme at the Royal Opera House, Jonathan Lo; Cellist, teacher and ABRSM Examiner, Sam Warner and Music Teacher, Ms McLean from Wellsway School. It was particularly encouraging to read comments from Jonathan and Sam who described performances as 'captivating…thrilling solo…what a beautiful sound'. We thoroughly enjoyed the range of genres and were particularly pleased by the number of primary entries, all of whom performed with such energy and spirit. The judging panel hope you understand that it genuinely isn’t about the winning, but about the pleasure music brings us on a daily basis and it’s clear music continues to play an important part in all of your lives.

Primary categories winners:

- Beginner, instrumental – David Shiel on guitar, Saltford Primary.
- Grade 1-3, instrumental – Matthew Gould on drums, Saltford Primary
- Musicals, voice – Ella Poynter, St Johns Primary
- Pop, voice – Joshua Dark, Saltford Primary
- Ensemble – Joshua Ball on electric guitar, Saltford Primary
Secondary categories winners:

- Beginner - Michael Johnson in Year 8 on keyboard.
- Grade 1-3 - Adam Leeper in Year 9, on clarinet.
- Grade 4-6 - Charlotte Lees in Year 7, on violin.
- Grade 7 and beyond - James Cole in Year 11, on electric guitar
- KS3 Musical - Beth Fear in Year 8.
- KS3 Pop song - Alfie Hewin Year 8, on piano and voice
- KS4 Musical song - Mackenzie Hancock in Year 10.
- KS4 Pop song - Esme Berry in Year 10
- Ensemble - Harvey Lees in Year 10 on bass guitar
- Rock Category - Alfie Peterson in Year 8 on drum

Stars in their eyes!

The BDS PE Department asked a few sporting legends both past and present to record an inspirational good luck message for pupils taking part in the school’s virtual sports day. You can watch the video on Youtube.
Summer Activity Programme

Wellsway Multi Academy Trust is pleased to announce its summer activity programme for summer 2020.

We have partnered with local and familiar third party operators, who specialise in delivery of summer activity camps and will be supporting us to deliver a range of activity sessions across three of our school sites during the summer holiday period.

Sessions will last 3.5 hours and run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the six weeks of the summer holidays. You can book single or multiple sessions.

Booking information

- https://www.sblsports.co.uk/news-and-events/

You will be able to start booking from Monday 6th July 2020. The cost of each session is £15.00 - £20.00 per child per for a morning or an afternoon slot, there will be an option to book multiple sessions if required.

A thank you from the DofE

This week Wellsway, Bedminster Down and SBL received their certificates of social value, which detail the total number of hours DofE participants donated to their local community in the last financial year 2019/20. Fantastic work from all of those involved.
Plea for help!

Zest catering have been fortunate to secure a large donation of food to be able to provide much needed food parcels to families across WMAT schools who have been affected by food insecurity. In order for them to provide these much needed parcels, they are in desperate need of volunteers to help pack the boxes and assist the school drivers in loading their vehicles when they collect, every Friday from SBL Academy.

There will be strict COVID-19 procedures in place, PPE will be provided along with refreshments, during the shift which will be 8am - 1.30pm.

Please email Claire Mansri on cmansri@wellswaymat.com if you are able to help, this would be really appreciated!

Vacancies

Lunchtime Play Assistant

Saltford CofE Primary School are currently seeking a Lunchtime Play Assistant. This is a permanent, part-time post during term time only.

For more information please see the job advertisement (Pdf) and the job description (Pdf). You can also download an application form (Docx) or contact the school office on 01225 872185 for an application pack.

Please see our eTeach careers site for other roles within the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust.