Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that all families are safe and well. With three weeks to go before the start of the summer holidays, we wanted to give you an update on the current situation in our schools and across the trust.

These continue to be challenging times for schools all across the country, ensuring the safety and welfare of pupils and staff while also providing a good quality online education for those children learning from home. There has been an incredible amount of work, much of it ongoing, to accomplish this at Pathfinder. We are proud that our primary schools were some of the first in York to open to more children on 2 June and are now in their fourth week back. Archbishop Holgate’s has also successfully welcomed back students in Years 10 and 12 who returned to school on a part time basis last week. We have also implemented a universal home learning offer across all of our schools outlining our key principles for providing a good quality online education.

The coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown has caused an unprecedented disruption to the education landscape. In a very short space of time we have had to completely rethink how we educate and support our students and implement new ways of working and learning using new systems and technologies. We have also had to transform our school environments to ensure the safety and welfare of children and staff.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of staff across all of our schools and in Pathfinder’s central team. Many of them have worked continuously through the Easter break and May half term to ensure children and families receive the support they need, and our schools are safe and ready for wider opening.

We know that many parents are eager for their children to return to school and are disappointed that some of the usual end of term events will not be taking place. Our main priority has been and will continue to be the safety and welfare of our school communities. The headteachers and staff in all of our schools are working incredibly hard to manage the current situation and we kindly ask that you continue to support them in their efforts.

Please note, our schools will be closing to all pupils, including vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, at the end of term on Friday 17 July.

Critical worker places
As some of the lockdown measures are eased and more people return to work, our schools are receiving an increase in requests for critical worker places. The government’s guidance requires us to prioritise places for critical workers and vulnerable children over other year groups.

With limited capacity in our schools due to social distancing requirements, if the demand for critical worker spaces exceeds those available, some of our schools may unfortunately have to close to other year groups. One of our schools has had to make the difficult decision to do this already. Those other schools affected have surveyed parents to establish critical worker numbers and will keep you informed of any potential closures to other year groups.

Coronavirus: information and advice
You can find everything you need to know, including all the latest information and updates on the Pathfinder website by clicking latest updates button.
Keeping our schools safe

As you know, our schools are using a bubble system (small groups of children and staff) and social distancing to limit the potential spread of infection and to keep pupils and staff safe. The effectiveness of these measures relies on the support of parents, pupils and staff. We would therefore ask that you continue to assist us in keeping our schools as safe as possible by following the government’s latest guidance: [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can’t do until 4 July](#).

Help Archbishop Holgate’s School win £5,000 worth of book tokens

With a big new library to fill for September, Archbishop Holgate’s are asking parents and staff to enter the school into the National Book Tokens prize draw. If you would also like to support the school, click the link below and fill in your details, it only takes a minute. Not only could the school win £5,000 in book tokens, but if your entry is picked, you will also receive £100 of book tokens to spend on yourself. [https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools](https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools)

Health and wellbeing

The Happy Place Festival is a month long virtual festival taking place from 12 June to 12 July and features performances, tutorials and speakers promoting mental and physical wellbeing. Visit [www.happyplacefestival.com](http://www.happyplacefestival.com) for more information.