

Communitas Education Trust

1st July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this communication finds you and your families well. As you are aware, a significant number of children have returned to our schools over the past few weeks. This return has been very successful and the children are very happy to be back in a routine with their peers. Most of our children, however, are still at home and we know that you continue to support their learning and development really well – thank you for this. As a trust we are looking at how we might improve and expand our online learning offer so that, whatever the future holds, we will have an exciting and engaging learning platform for our children and families to interact with.

However, we know that there are a number of our families who have found the online learning offer difficult to access. These families often have limited access to hardware (computers and tablets) and children will have to engage with learning through a smart phone (if at all) – this is far from ideal. As a result, we would like to ask for donations of computers with the following minimum specification so that we can use transform them into chrome books for our children to use.

Minimum spec. for converting old laptops into chrome devices:

- Laptops produced from 2007 onwards
- Must be in good physical order (no damage)
- Minimum of 2GB RAM
- Minimum of 16GB HDD
- Built in Webcam

If you (or anybody you work for/with) are able to provide computers matching this minimum specification, we would be extremely grateful if they could be handed into one of our school offices as soon as possible with a note to say where they have come from. We (and our children) will be eternally grateful.

We are also exploring 4G connectivity for families with our network provider (LGfL). We will keep you updated with progress regarding this. Thank you for your continued support.

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On another note, you will be aware of government announcements regarding all children returning to schools in England from September. The trust, governing bodies, headteachers and staff are working extremely hard to ensure that this can happen in as safe a manner as possible. The government will publish further guidance for schools regarding this on Thursday. The COVID-19 situation across the country is 'fluid' to say the least. We will keep you informed of any changes throughout the summer. Please note that when schools do return they will not be offering 'wrap-around' care (breakfast and after school provision) for the first weeks of term – this is so that we can ensure all essential practices are working safely first. Again, we will review our practices and structures on a weekly basis and make changes as soon as it is practicable to do so.

Our schools are exploring the potential offer of summer holiday schemes to support some identified children and provide help to families who may need to return to work. Some of the provision may be offered for free by the schools whilst some will have to be paid for by families. Please contact your schools for details.

Many thanks, once again, for all of your fantastic support.

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Stay safe and enjoy the summer,

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Paul Marray. Nick Tildesley.

Chair of CET CEO