

17th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope that your families remain safe and well and as promised, I am writing to update you on the latest Government guidance and our plans to reopen to all students in September. Year 5 to attend on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September, Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 to return on Monday 7th September.

My intent with this letter is to:

- Give you a summary of the latest information for schools on the September return, the link below gives you the details.
- Inform you of where you can find up to date guidance as to how we plan to open the school.
- Alert you to the key risks with our current plan, so that you are able to make fully informed decisions.
- Remind you of the changes to the Government strategy on attendance from September.

In order to write this letter I have read the latest guidance as of the 12th August and below are the links to the documents that I have referred to and on which our plans are based.

[As of the 12th of August this was the latest guidance that I read. It was published on the 7th August.](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

Please refer to the letter and timetables Parentmailed to you at the end of term and or posted home to new Year 5 parents, with detailed information on how the school will operate under COVID-19. If you have misplaced this information, please don't worry they can be found on our website.

Having read the latest guidance, I have attached a table explaining the measures that we are taking and the plans that will be implemented, **in particular where a new initiative or update has occurred** since my last communication in July. However, for further details on our procedures, please refer to our website for the latest Risk Assessment.

Firstly, can I reassure you that currently there has been limited **change on the guidance and expectations on schools reopening in September and the timetable plans we sent you with the end of term Newsletter remain the most accurate account of how the school will operate from September.** Unless a major change occurs within the next three weeks, we continue to plan for students to be isolated in a class bubble and year group bubble, to reduce the risk of a whole school closure in the event of a possible Covid-19 outbreak. We continue planning for teachers to supervise the students throughout the day, including breaks and lunch, to help them to stay as socially distanced, **as this remains the greatest risk to whole school closure.** I would be very grateful for your support to ensure your child arrives at the staggered start times and that you have plans in place for the earlier finishing times.

Having read the information you have sent me, am I still able to make the decision that it is too risky for my child to be in school? The Government is clear that they expect your child to return to school in September. **There is no exception**, unless your child has a medical reason and is shielding. Please be aware that a non-attendance will be recorded as unauthorised.

What if my child gets Covid-19 and is then ill again, will the same procedures apply will I be at risk of a fine? If your child has medical reasons for their absence whatever these are, they should not be at risk.

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What next?

We will continue to monitor the guidance of the Covid-19 situation, and will update you again on the 27th August. Please can we suggest that as Parents and Carers you begin to prepare for the following:

- Know your child's exact start time and adhere to it
- Know the time your child is due to finish school and have childcare in place where necessary. This information can be found on the last Parentmail to you and or check the Timetables on our website
- You look out for guidance from the bus company in how they will manage Covid-19 and their expectations and talk to your child about the importance of following the guidance.
- You consider and talk with your child about the importance of not mixing year groups and staying with the friendship group, both inside and outside of school.

Please continue to email the Admin Team if you have any questions and concerns, we will endeavour to respond within 24–48 hours wherever possible. These are difficult times and it is understandable that you may have questions and concerns you may wish to raise. Don't forget to read the important information attached regarding our preparations for September.

Assuring you of our best intentions.

Yours sincerely

Jo Gant
Headteacher

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