

13th July 2020

Dear Parent

It may not seem like it but we are now in the final week of the academic year. I am not sure if we will think of it as a year to forget or year we will never forget – probably both, if that makes any sense at all! Before we finish, I just want to share a couple of key messages. Headteachers will also be writing to you this week and will include much more detail, particularly about our plans for September.

Since the government made its announcement about opening schools fully in September, we have been working hard on putting plans in place. Every school is different and this will be reflected in those plans. However, all our schools have put in place systems to keep our children and young people as safe as possible. Our planning is based around the overarching principle of reducing the number of contacts between children and staff and this can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in bubbles) and thereby reducing the risk of infection spreading. This will mean changes to the school day and the types of activities we can offer but each academy is planning to deliver the full curriculum.

We know some pupils may need a lot of support. Again, we are ready for this and will do all we can to help pupils settle and then catch up on missing work. We are still waiting for details of the government's funding for catch up programmes but this has not stopped us putting in place some schemes already. Again, headteachers will share their plans with you in the future.

We have had a small number of confirmed cases of COVID amongst our pupils and staff. Thankfully, their symptoms have not been serious. When we receive news of a case, we thoroughly investigate the risk of the infection spreading and ensure we notify the health authorities. We have always said we will put the safety of our pupils and staff first. This has included temporarily closing a school as a precaution. So far, these measures, together with following good safety and hygiene routines in school, seem to have ensured the virus has not spread. We will continue to be extremely vigilant, until we know the threat has gone.

The pupils who have attended school have behaved exceptionally well. It has been a delight to have them in school. I am sure this will continue when we return in September, which will help us enormously.

Some of you may be anxious about your child coming back to school in September. If that applies to you, please get in touch. I am sure we can reassure you that our schools will be safe places and it is really important we can bring pupils back into school. There are risks in whatever we choose to do and missing important schooling presents many risks for pupils' long-term health and wellbeing.

Please look out for messages about returning in September. In the meantime, please keep safe over summer and I hope you manage to get a break.

Yours sincerely



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