

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It has been a long and strange Term 6 for all members of our school community, so I would like to thank everyone again for their continued support.

As you may be aware, the Government released their guidance for opening to all year groups from September and we have been working very hard to reflect and plan for welcoming back all children in the new academic year.

We are now in a position to be able to share a summary of the principles for opening to all children in September.



As we prepare to increase our provision in school, we have been working closely with our Trust and following government advice to ensure the safest way to welcome back our students. As a school, we have successfully met the Government expectations for children returning to school based learning in Year 10 & 12 and we are now in a position to apply similar principles to welcoming back all year groups.

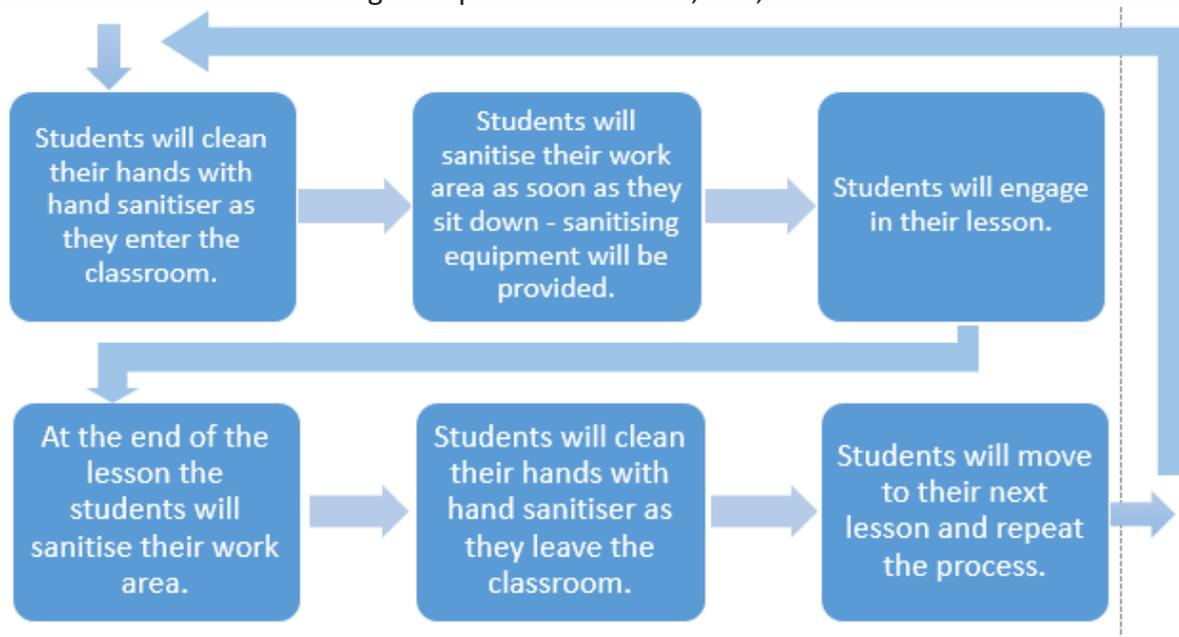
The information here will help you understand how the return to school based learning will happen and answer some of the questions you may have.

As throughout the return to school based learning during Term 6, we will be continuing to work to our belief that Child First = Child Safe = Adult Safe. This has been the key principle that has guided our planning since lockdown began and we are pleased with how well it worked and was understood by everyone in our school community.

How will we achieve Child Safe?

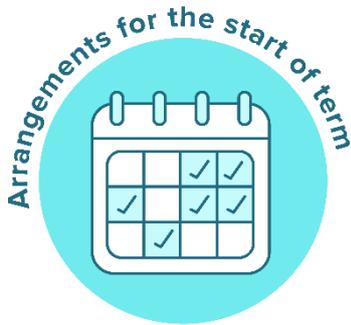
At the heart of our strategy to keep everyone safe will be the concept of the Year Group Bubble. Each child will be part of a consistent bubble made up of their Year group. There will be no mixing of children between these bubbles except when transitioning between lessons and these have been kept to a minimum as explained below.

To help manage the Year Group Bubbles we are introducing additional measures that will allow students to move from safe space to safe space throughout the day with their bubbles – this will be achieved through the protocol of ‘Clean, Use, Clean’:



Teachers will be, where appropriate, situated as they would have been pre-covid, in a base classroom with limited movement between classes during the school day.

I have outlined below some of the other considerations and broad principles that we expect to be in operation.



1. Arrangements for the start of term

We will provide a full time education provision for all children 5 days a week. The Government expect all children to return in September and we have planned carefully to ensure that we are able to welcome them all back safely.

To ensure students and staff are fully informed of the new safety procedures in place, the start of term will be delayed until **Thursday 10th September**. However, all students will be expected to attend a health and safety briefing and induction in their Year Group Bubble wearing full school uniform on the following dates and times:

Tuesday 8 th September		Wednesday 9 th September	
9:00am	Year 7	9:00am	Year 8
11:00am	Year 11	11:00am	Year 9
1:00pm	Year 12/13	1:00pm	Year 10



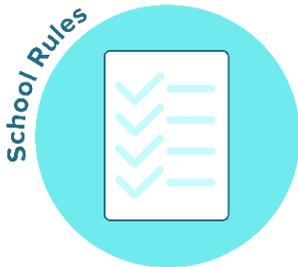
2. Arrangements for the school day:

To reduce the number of times students move around the school we will be operating a three-lesson school day, each lesson will be 100 minutes long.

To support social distancing, students must enter and leave the school site through different entry / exit points. More details will be shared with you prior to the start of the new term.

There will be no whole school assemblies or external school trips taking place throughout the Autumn Term to ensure that we do not have large gatherings. However, we will be working to use any technology available to us which will enable us to come to together and 'visit' places virtually.

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered so that the Year Group Bubbles do not mix. Please provide your child with a healthy break snack as usual. We will be offering a hot meal option as usual, alternatively please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch.



3. School Rules

When we return in September, we will expect our children to return in full school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity and school community and we recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners together and uniform is integral to this.

All normal school rules will apply as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing. If students choose to ignore these expectations then the school will apply the normal range of sanctions.

We would encourage students to bring in their own stationery in a plastic based pencil case as stationery cannot be shared with their peers.



4. Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan. This means regular deep cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, IT suites and toilets. We will put in place a “cleaning habit routine” at the start and end of every lesson in every classroom that is being used – see above.

Hand sanitiser will be the principle means of securing hand hygiene and will be available across the school.

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education. Therefore, facemasks are not to be worn in school.

As a result of these measures we believe we will be able to provide a safe learning environment for your children and we look forward to welcoming them all back in September.



Managing Sickness & Reporting

Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

We are going beyond the government advice regarding Track & Trace to ensure the highest safety for our community. Therefore, any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested. In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health England and require all students identified as being within prolonged close proximity to the infected person to isolate for 14 days.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, parents/carers, staff and governors for their support over the last term and indeed since the pandemic impacted on our usual ways of teaching and learning. Together we have overcome some great challenges and we are proud of what we have achieved.

Should there be any further changes to Government guidance over the summer break, we will of course respond as best as we can. In the meantime, I would like to thank you again and wish you a safe and restful summer break.

I hope you have found this update useful. Further information will be following throughout the summer.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Smith
Principal