



2nd July 2020

Dear Parents

COVID-19

Here is my weekly update regarding the coronavirus situation. This morning, the government have officially published guidance on the reopening of schools from September which confirms that all children will be able to return to school full-time after the summer holidays. The government have also confirmed that schools will not be expected to open over the summer holidays and so care for the children of key workers will end on 21st July.

There is a great deal of work to be done as we prepare to open to all children from September. The guidance dictates that there will be changes to the school day and the organisation of classes with arrangements likely to remain in place until Easter 2021. In brief:

- Pupils, particularly the very youngest, are not expected to socially distance but will be encouraged to wash their hands very regularly.
- The bubble system remains but the maximum number of children in a single bubble will increase to thirty.
- There will be staggered drop off and collection times for different bubbles. This means that the school day will be shortened for some year groups; all children will continue to receive at least the 4^{1/2} hours a day teacher contact time to which they are entitled with savings made by reducing the length of break times.
- Break times will be staggered to limit the number of children using play areas / dining facilities at any one time.
- The curriculum will be narrowed with greater emphasis upon English and mathematics until the summer term 2021.
- Restrictions on visitors to school and face to face meetings will remain.
- We will not be permitted to hold events which involve gatherings of large numbers.

I will be working with staff and governors over the next week to complete Phase 2 of the Uffington Plan for the Wider Reopening of Schools. Once this is complete and agreed by the governing body, all documentation including the risk assessment will be shared with you.

In the meantime, if you wish to see the full guidance published by the government, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Uffington Risk Assessment for the Phased Reopening of Schools has been reviewed in the light of the measures taken to ease lockdown from 4th July. It has not been necessary to make any significant changes and I would like to thank the staff, children and you as parents for your efforts to implement the measures to keep everyone safe.

I would, however, like to remind you that once children are dropped off / collected that you should not hang around in order to limit the number of people waiting at the school boundary at any one time.

TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

Bearing in mind that so many of our children have been out of school for such a long time, I have decided to give all children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 the chance to visit us during the last week of term. These visits will give the children the opportunity to come into school for the first time in many months, meet with their friends and teachers, and also visit their new teachers / classrooms where appropriate. This is in addition to the planned Google Meet transition sessions. These visits will take place once the majority of the other children have gone home and are scheduled as follows:

Year 2 - Monday 13th July 2:15pm – 3:15pm

Year 3 – Tuesday 14th July 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Year 4 – Thursday 15th July 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Year 5 – Friday 17th July 2:30pm – 3:30pm

I hope that this will go a little way towards alleviating any anxiety relating to returning to school in September. I will send further details regarding the virtual transition sessions and these visits next week.

Yours sincerely



Mrs HR Simms

Headteacher