

Court Fields School

Achieve | Belong | Participate

Mantle Street
WELLINGTON
Somerset
TA21 8SW



Tel: 01823 664201
Fax: 01823 660812
sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk
www.courtfields.net
<https://twitter.com/CourtFieldsSch>

Acting Head of School: Mrs P Matthews

Executive Head: Mrs S Watson

Ref: Update Letter re September - Initial 030720 V2

3rd July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and keeping safe at this difficult time. I hope that you will be able to safely take advantage of the changes to the lockdown restrictions from tomorrow.

As you may be aware, yesterday the Government published its new document 'Guidance for Full Opening – Schools'. This outlines what all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term. In summary, the Government has advised that:

It is the government's plan that all children and young people, in all year groups, will return to school and college full time from the beginning of the autumn term.

The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools and colleges restricted their opening to most pupils in March, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and we understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools. As a result, the government has asked schools and colleges to plan for all children and young people to return from the start of the new academic year.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. Of course, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why schools and colleges will be asked to put in place a range of protective measures.

The full guidance can be found on our website (courtfields.net), along with the specific guidance for parents and carers, which can also be accessed via the Government link here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Clearly there is much to digest and respond to in the guidance. We must ensure that we have a robust, effective and safe plan in place for September. It would not be appropriate or advisable to rush into making decisions. We will be ensuring a measured and carefully considered approach, tailored to our school context. Over the coming week I will be working with the Senior Leadership Team, the wider staff and the Trust, to finalise our plans and I will communicate those to you within two weeks, so before the end of the term.

I would, however, like to give you as much notice as possible with regard to uniform, as I know that is one aspect that parents/carers are keen to address. The Government has, in their latest guidance, removed the advice on the additional washing of clothing, and clarified their position regarding school uniform as follows:

We are encouraging all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

With this in mind please prepare for your child to return to school in full uniform at the start of next term. As usual, if you are suffering financial hardship, please contact your child's Head of Year, as we may be able to support you with the purchase of school uniform.



Year 11 Privileges:

At this time, if this were a 'normal' school year, we would be considering the introduction of Year 11 Privileges and discussing these with Year 10. These were introduced very successfully last year, as a mark of recognition of the Year 11 students' position as role models, and the most senior students in the school. Despite our more limited contact with our Year 10 student this term, we have been very impressed with their response to the return to school, the on-site lessons, and the Face-to-Face Tutorial Meetings. Mr Seaton, Mr Williams, Mrs Westwood and I, alongside the wider staff, have noticed a real maturity in their interactions over the past 3 weeks, which has been fantastic to see. We have decided therefore, that they should be rewarded by the first two of the Year 11 privileges from September, namely:

- Year 11 students will not be required to wear blazers to school. They must instead wear a plain black crew or 'V' neck jumper. This must be a knitted style jumper, with no logo unless it is the Court Fields School logo. Sweatshirts are not acceptable.
- Year 11 students will be invited to use the Year 11 Common Room as a social space, as appropriate given COVID guidance, at break and lunch. This will be organised by Mr Williams, including the recruitment of the Common Room Committee, and he will communicate directly with students regarding this.

There will be further privileges available to our Year 11s as they return in September and throughout their final year at Court Fields. We are sure that they will demonstrate in their learning and their interactions with staff and other students that they are in a position to be rewarded with these over the coming months. Well done Year 10!

Finally, another thank you for your support for our students Learning@Home. The work that we all have done as a community, during lockdown, and through to September, will support our students' emotional and academic development over the next year, and ensure that they are able to gain the outcomes they need for their ambitious futures.

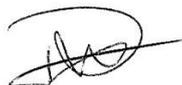
As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any other questions/queries. Please note that phone lines are set to an answer service as we have a limited staff team in school so we keep as many staff safe and at home. Please, therefore, email us as follows:

- For safeguarding concerns, please use the following email address: safeguarding@courtfields.net
- For ClassCharts or other IT technical enquiries, please use the following dedicated email address: classcharts@courtfields.net
- If your child has a query with their **Learning@Home**, they should simply email their class teacher in the format initialsurname@courtfields.net
- If your child needs emotional support, if you are struggling to ensure that your child completes their **Learning@Home**, or for other general queries, please contact your child's Tutor by email (using the format initialsurname@courtfields.net)
- For general enquiries, please use the main email address: sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Thank you once again for your support, which is very much appreciated. My very best wishes go out to you and your families.

Keep safe and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Polly Matthews
Acting Headteacher