

Court Fields School

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Acting Head of School: Mrs P Matthews

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Ref: Parent Letter re September Reopening 100720 V2

10th 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.

At the end of last week the Government published its guidance for schools on how to plan for all pupils returning in September 2020. As you will know from my email last Friday, the intention is that every pupil, in every year group, should return to school after the summer break. We have been working hard as a school staff to finalise our planning to ensure that this can happen safely. We know that whilst pupils (and their parents) have worked hard from home, it is no substitute for the face-to-face teaching we can offer in school. In addition to this, we also recognise how important it is for our students' wellbeing for them to be in school, amongst their friends and with staff that they know and trust.

When we reopen in September, there will need to be a new 'normal' in place at school, and this will impact on a number of areas, for example rooming and the use of social spaces. The Coronavirus remains prevalent, and we will have a range of measures in place, in order to minimise the risks to both students and staff. Of course, we cannot guarantee a completely risk-free environment, but we will have all the appropriate systems in place in September, so that you can be confident regarding your child's return to school. We will be building upon our robust measures, which have already been successfully in place since June 2020 to support Year 10 and our most vulnerable students and children of key workers.

The Government's guidance is complex and there are some significant challenges in meeting these requirements, but we are now finalising a detailed and effective plan to ensure that we achieve the full return outlined in the guidance.

The key aspects that I am able to tell you today are as follows:

- There will be a full return to school, full time, from September.
- In line with Government guidance attendance will be statutory from the start of term in September.
- We will support Year 7 Transition, in lieu of their missed Induction Days this term, with a phased transition from Tuesday 1st September to Friday 4th September.
- Years 8 to 11 will all receive a phased return, with wellbeing support as part of our 'recovery curriculum' over the first full week of term (7th to 11th September).
- We will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum; including an appropriate emphasis on the core subjects.
- We will be working on a system of year group 'bubbles'.
- We will continue with our stringent cleaning and hygiene measures.
- Children should not attend school if they or anyone in their household have symptoms.
- We will support all parents to participate with the NHS Test and Trace programme.
- Children will not be required to socially distance at all times.
- All children will be sat side by side, front facing in classrooms.
- School uniform will be worn as usual – there will be no requirement for this to be washed daily.



I will, of course, write to you with more details next week, once we have finalised the details of what is a significantly complex plan. I appreciate that you may well have some questions, however I would ask for your patience whilst we work through the guidance to create a rigorous opening plan. Please know that once I am in a position to, I will share more detail with you. Thank you for your support as we ensure that no stone is left unturned in order to keep our students and staff safe.

Finally, I know that some of you may be making plans for holidays abroad. As you may be aware, in some countries there is a two-week quarantine period for people returning back to the UK. Whilst I would hope that your plans won't prevent your child starting back at school with their peers, if you think there is a possibility of this occurring (as your return is within two weeks of the start of the term), please could I ask that you inform the school office.

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 you 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