

Court Fields School

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Ref: Transition Update Letter Y6 090720

10th July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well and keeping safe at this difficult time. Thank you for your ongoing support with transition. The challenges of school closure and Year 6 Transition have been significant for all of us. I would like to say thank you to you and your children for your understanding and flexibility as we have adapted to this 'Virtual Transition'.

We wanted to give you an update on our transition, and address some questions raised about September. Unfortunately the Government have not changed their guidance to allow Year 6 students to visit their new school before the end of the summer term. In light of that, next week we will be making visits to all primaries to see those students who have returned to school. We will also be delivering special welcome gifts for our new students. We are excited to meet as many students as we can and for those we cannot see, we will continue to share vital transition news and updates via our website and Year 6 Transition Facebook page.

On Wednesday, we uploaded our uniform catwalk, and we hope this displays our uniform expectations, along with the policy in your Transition Booklet. The recent government guidance states that students should wear full uniform upon return, and daily washing is not necessary. This is a change from the previous guidance, but with this in mind, and to provide students with a clear routine, we will be expecting full uniform including the blazer to be worn in September. Of course, we understand the current situation, and so if you are suffering financial hardship, do email transition@courtfields.net, as we may be able to support you with uniform costs.

The specific guidance states:

"We would encourage all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal."

We are currently in the process of responding to the full guidance to ensure that we can facilitate a full and safe return to school in September. We are planning to offer additional transition days for SEN and Pupil Premium students and two full transition days for all out new Year 7 students. The purpose of this is to allow students to get to know the school, our routines and our expectations, prior to other Years being on site. Full details of the structure of the Transition Days, and the plans for school reopening, will be communicated on Thursday 16th July.

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 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. Thank you for your support as we ensure that no stone is left unturned in order to keep our students and staff safe.

Finally, we 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 us via the transition@courtfields.net email.

Our Year 7 Tutors are excited to meet their tutees and to support students with getting to know their tutors, we are currently recording welcome videos, which will be shared next week. The Transition Leaders have produced short videos explaining key aspects of life at Court Fields and these will be posted throughout the next week on our website and Facebook page.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact transition@courtfields.net if you have any other questions/queries. Thank you once again for your support, which is always very much appreciated. Our very best wishes go out to you and your families. Do please keep safe and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Polly Matthews
Acting Headteacher



Mrs Sarah Westwood
Assistant Headteacher