

16th July, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you

May we start this letter by taking the opportunity to thank you for your support during the last few months. It has been wonderful to receive the many emails and letters of thanks for the work of our schools – we simply couldn't have done it all without you. Your support with your children's home learning will ensure that they are in the best possible place to continue with the curriculum on our full return to school in September. All our Pathfinder Schools will be operating a Recovery Curriculum, which will support our pupils to settle back into the routines of school whilst helping them to come to terms with what has happened. There is separate information regarding this attached to this letter.



September Opening

The Department for Education have confirmed that schools will close as normal over the summer break and open fully in September, we have now received guidance to support this. Current restrictions on class sizes will be lifted, but schools and settings will keep children in class, year or phase group 'bubbles' to minimise the number of daily contacts with others that each pupil has. Protective measures, such as regular cleaning and handwashing will, of course, continue.

Our schools are currently putting rigorous procedures in place to minimise the likelihood of viral transmission, and respond to any positive COVID cases. We understand that testing will be widely available, and schools and settings will inform parents should concerns arise. Appropriate actions will be taken in the case of any outbreak, and remote education will be made available to any pupils who might have to self-isolate in order to ensure that learning time is not lost. School staff, governing bodies and Pathfinder Central Team are currently working to implement the detailed plans through carrying out a thorough risk assessment.

To minimise contact between groups of children our schools are very likely to have slightly different drop off and pick up times in order to avoid overcrowding the playground. Break and lunch times will be carefully managed to ensure contact between 'bubbles' is minimised. This will look different across our Pathfinder Schools who will let you know the details of this as soon as they are able.

Attendance from September

Government advice is that the risk to children of becoming severely ill from COVID19 is very low and we know there are negative health and educational impacts for pupils who are out of school and settings for long periods. It is with this in mind that the government's guidance states that pupils will be expected to attend school as normal from September. A small number of

pupils will still be unable to attend because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has COVID19. Shielding advice will pause on 1 August, this means that those pupils who remain on the shielded patient list can also return to their school or setting, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Some pupils who are not required to shield but who remain under the care of a specialist medical professional may need to discuss their care with that professional before returning to their school or setting. Please advise the school or setting if the guidance you receive is that your child should remain at home. Other than in these exceptional cases, or where a pupil's absence is otherwise authorised, it is the Department for Education's expectation that pupils attend as normal. It is important that you discuss any concerns on attendance with your school as soon as possible to avoid further escalation.

Catch-Up Funding

You may have heard that the government will be providing funding so that schools and settings can provide additional tuition and other support to pupils so that any who have fallen behind can be helped to catch up. At the time of writing, detailed guidance has not been released about this. As soon as it has, we will work with schools to consider the best ways forward.

[Link to government guidance for parents and carers](#)

All year groups (except Reception) will be returning on Thursday 3rd September. At this stage we anticipate that there will need to be staggered start and finish times to the school day in order to maintain social distancing guidelines and not compromise the safety of our 'bubbles'. Although our plans are not yet finalised and you will receive updated information with all details of our re-opening during the summer break, at the current time we are planning the school will start and finish at different times for our different phases:

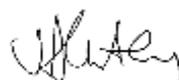
- UKS2 children in Oaks, Cedars and Maples classes will start at 8.40am and finish at 3.20pm
- LKS2 children in Redwoods, Silver Birches and Willows will start at 8.55am and finish at 3.30pm
- KS1 children in Ash, Bay and Elm classes will start at 8.40am and finish at 3.10pm and
- EYFS children in Cherries and Apples will start at 8.55am and finish at 3.10pm (once their induction period is complete).

Please note that these arrangements are subject to change, but once we have completed our risk assessments we will contact parents to confirm all of the details including drop off and collection arrangements (where to drop children off and pick them up from and at what time); social distancing expectations on the playground and within the school; uniform expectations; what the children can bring to school with them and what they should not bring; lunchtime arrangements; behaviour expectations; and how parents can contact the school, as the school office will not be open to parents as normal. In order to safeguard our whole school community please note that parents will not be allowed onto the school site at morning drop off – the children will need to be left at the school gate. Mrs Clubley or Mrs Billingham will then direct the children to their class teacher. All pick-ups at the end of the day will be from the Broadway entrance, with parents waiting for their child in designated class lines on the top playground. The children will then be brought out by their class teacher and will be dismissed to their parent/carer one at a time, to maintain social distancing protocols for the safety of all members of our community.

We very much look forward to our full re-opening in September.



Ann Davey
Chief Executive Pathfinder Schools



Julie Clubley
Head Teacher