

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST
Fitzwaryn

'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'

Headteacher:
MRS. S CONEBOY B.Ed.(Hons.)

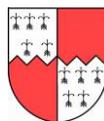
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15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well.

Since the Government's announcement of the phased return to school for pupils in England, we have received more guidance. There is also much speculation in the media about what may or may not happen!

We have naturally received queries from many of you regarding how a return to school will look for your child. Understandably, many of you have expressed nervousness about sending your child back to school; I appreciate that this is a difficult decision for you to make given the situation.

This letter tells you what we know so far and what we are doing to provide a safe environment for the children who return to school, as well as for the staff working with them.

The main questions that we have been asked so far include:

When will school start to re-open?

The government's plan is for schools to start a phased return from 1st June (after half term) although they have said that this date may be postponed if the infection rate starts to go up before then.

Please be aware that this may be later than the 1st June as we will be undertaking a phased approach based on risk assessments.

Which year groups will be able to return to school?

For special schools, we have not been advised which year groups should return to school first.



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Will I be penalised if I choose to keep my child at home, even if they are allowed to return?

The government guidance says that no parent will be penalised for keeping their children at home. It is very clear that the choice lies with you. During Term 6, we will aim to support those children who are in school in addition to providing home learning to those children who remain at home.

If I choose to send my child back to school, will they be allocated transport?

As far as I am aware, the transport providers will be working towards ensuring that your child is transported to school. However, there may be some changes to your child's transport in terms of routes, pick-up and drop-off times. I also believe that Transport are implementing social distancing rules on the taxis and fleet buses. I will of course let you know if I have any more information.

How safe will school be?

Keeping children socially distanced is going to be very difficult to achieve. It is likely in the first instance that class sizes will be reduced and part-time places offered to limit the overall number of children and staff in the building at once. Children are likely to be asked to remain in their classrooms as much as possible throughout the day, including when eating their lunch so that they come into contact with fewer children and adults throughout the school day.

What will the curriculum look like for my child?

We are working on the curriculum offer at the moment – the focus is likely to be on getting the children settled back into school and ensuring that their mental health and well-being are looked after with an emphasis on communication, English and Maths. If the weather permits there will also be plenty of outside learning opportunities. The teachers at Fitzwaryn are very creative and I am sure that the learning that takes place will definitely be lots of fun too!

Unfortunately, there will be no capacity to run trips and visits, RDA and hydrotherapy for the foreseeable future. There will be also be limits to some aspects of the curriculum e.g. cookery. We will have to limit some of the resources that children are using to ensure high standards of cleanliness and to stop the spread of any infection.

Will my child be taught and supported by the same staff team as previously?

Taking into account the individual personal circumstances of staff including their health and well-being will be one of our priorities. We will endeavour to ensure your child is supported by staff who are familiar to them, but this may not always be possible.

Will my child receive therapy provision?

Currently the therapists are providing emergency cover and I am waiting for more clarity on the situation going forward.

What will be the situation for the start and end of the school day?

Pick-up and drop-off times may have to be staggered to avoid too many adults and children mixing at the busiest times of the day.

What will happen if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID – 19 in school?

As is the case now, we are being and will continue to be extra vigilant to anyone who has any symptoms of the virus whilst at school. If we are alerted to a case or a suspected case, we have no option but to shut the school until we have the case confirmed as being positive or negative. The government has indicated that all pupils at school and all staff will be eligible for a test should they be showing symptoms. If results come back as negative, we can return the school to be operational; if results are returned as positive we will have to keep the school shut and will take advice from Public Health England.

Other protective measures will need to include:

- Frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices
- Not allowing children and adults who show signs of any illness on site and sending home anyone who displays any sign of illness during the school day
- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Regular cleaning of the school and resources
- Minimising contact and mixing
- PPE will be worn by staff during support for personal hygiene and if a child displays behaviours that require it to be worn.

I appreciate that I will not have been able to answer all your questions; there will be many more to come I am sure.

For now, to aid our planning, your child's class teacher will be phoning you early next week to see if it is likely that you will require your child to have a part-time place at school during Term 6 should the government give the go ahead for schools to return more children to school.

Please be assured that you will not be held to your decision; if you say that you do not know at this stage that is absolutely fine – we will be continually reviewing the situation and will consult with you on a weekly basis.

Once we have the information from you, we can continue with our planning. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the weekend.

With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher



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