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Principal: Mrs Meena Gabbi
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14 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 to follow.



September Opening

The Department for Education has 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, and at Montsaye children will be in year group 'pods' 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.

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 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 the 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](#)

At Montsaye, we will be having a phased return to school to ensure that all year groups have time to adjust to the new guidelines in school in order to ensure all pupils, staff and the community are as safe as possible and are fully aware of the new guidelines. All year groups will be based in area PODS where they will be for their lessons. This will ensure that contact with other year groups is minimised and staff will move to lessons rather than pupils moving around the school.

To support this we will be operating a staggered return in September and year groups will be required to attend at the following times:

Year	Date	Arrival time	Where to go on arrival
7	Thu 3 rd Sep	8.35 am	Escorted from main reception
	Fri 4 th Sep – Tue 8 th Sep	8.35 am	Humanities department
8	Fri 4 th – Tue 8 th Sep	8.35 am	Maths department
9	Fri 4 th – Tue 8 th Sep	8.35 am	English department
10	Mon 7 th Sep	8.25 am	Science department
	Tue 8 th Sep	8.25am	Science department
11	Tue 8 th Sep	8.25 am	Design department
12	Thu 3 rd Sep	9.00 am	Main hall – enrolment induction day
	Fri 4 th – Tue 8 th Sep	10.00 am	Languages department
13	Fri 4 th – Tue 8 th Sep	10.00 am	Languages department
ALL	Wed 9th Sep onwards	All pupils in at allocated time, normal timetable- timings as below	

Timings for arrival to school and departure will vary depending on the year that your child is in, these must be adhered to at all times to allow for social distancing between PODs and to avoid congestion. The arrival and finish times for all year groups are listed below:

Year group	Base	Arrival	Finish time
Year 7	Humanities/Music	8.35 am	2.50 pm
Year 8	Maths	8.35 am	2.50 pm
Year 9	English	8.35 am	2.50 pm
Year 10	Science	8.25 am	3.00 pm
Year 11	Humanities/Technology	8.25 am	3.00 pm
Year 12/13	Languages	8.55 am	3.00 pm

We would also like to outline the following expectations/details:

- Each Progress Leader will provide further information regarding tutor groups, movement, break and lunch time arrangements and rooming's for pupils, so expect to receive some further information from them. This will come out via email, as a recorded assembly this week with finer details in the last week of the summer holiday.
- Lunch and break times be staggered to minimise contact between year group pods.
- Pupils will be expected to wear full uniform, be ready and prepared to learn. Our uniform supplier is Karlsports, Unit 7, Trafalgar Road, Kettering NN16 8DB. Tel: 01536 601731.
- Pupils are expected to bring their own equipment. They will need a pen, pencil, ruler and green pen and might also find the following items useful: eraser, sharpener, coloured pens/pencil, scientific calculator, glue stick, protractor, compass, dry wipe/white-board marker, highlighter and dictionary. Bringing their own items in this way minimises contact.
- All pupils need to bring a reading book to support their reading.
- Pupils will be able to purchase lunch from the restaurant/café during their allocated lunch time slot. Please note, that this will be a 'grab and go' service.
- We are currently working with NCC to ensure that buses are running to the required times to ensure that your child gets to and from school.
- We would like to limit the amount of cars on site therefore if possible can you drop off your child outside the school gate that would be appreciated.

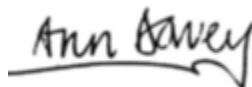
School will look very different in September when you child returns and we want to support them fully with their transition back into learning. It is imperative as we work in these unusual times that we all work together and ensure that our children are back and engaging in learning, but more importantly that all are safe whilst doing so.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Meena Gabbi
Principal



Ann Davey
Chief Executive