

19th June 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all safe and well in these continued challenging times and I am writing to let you know the school's current position on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Since 1st June, we have been able to provide two days per week of school-based support to every family who responded to the survey sent out on 15th May. It has been lovely to welcome the children back and we hope that this has made a positive difference to you and your families.

Some of you said that you did not wish to send your child back to school and we have always respected families' decisions to keep their child at home during this period. We remain fully committed to supporting you and your child and if there is anything else we can do to support you at home, please do let us know. Some of you said that you would like to review the situation later in the term and we promised that in the week of 22nd June, you would have the opportunity to request school-based support for the final month of term should you wish. At the bottom of this letter you will find a link which invites you to respond to the following question:

"Would you like your child to spend some time in school for the final month of term?"

If your child is **not** currently attending school but you would like them to return for the final month of term, please tick the box. Please submit your response by **4pm on Monday 22nd June** and we will be in touch with you by Friday 26th June to inform you of the arrangements which will run from Monday 29th June until the end of term on Tuesday 21st July.

If your child is already attending school, or you do not wish your child to return to school, no further action is needed from you at this time.

Please be aware that:

- **Primary-aged pupils** from both sites are likely to be allocated **Mondays and Tuesdays** and **Secondary-aged pupils** are likely to be allocated **Thursdays and Fridays**.
- Pupils will be in "teams" in the same way that mainstream schools are setting up "bubbles".
- In each of our "teams", there will be a maximum of **four pupils with two staff** (unless in exceptional circumstances).
- These "teams" will remain consistent for the rest of the term, with the same pupils staying with the same staff in the same classrooms. This will reduce the number of interactions between different staff and pupils.
- Each "team" will have an additional adult allocated to support during lunchtimes.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the safety of the whole Riverside School community has remained paramount and we have implemented a range of protective and preventative measures to reduce risks as much as we can (although we cannot eliminate all risks). These measures include:

- Encouraging social distancing as far as is practicable, given our pupils' needs;

- Ensuring regular and increased cleaning in classrooms and shared spaces;
- Minimising the sharing of any resources and equipment and ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected regularly;
- Encouraging frequent hand washing and good hygiene practices;
- Reducing times when children could potentially congregate, such as break times; arrival and departure times;
- Utilising outdoor space where possible;
- Keeping windows open to increase ventilation;
- Providing visual reminders and prompts to support children in their understanding of new practices (which we hope will also support their understanding about similar measures in the community, eg floor markings).

For those of you wishing to consider sending your child back to school, it is important that you are aware that:

- We will try to match children with familiar class staff but this may not always be possible;
- We will try to match children with familiar peers but this may not always be possible;
- We will try to place children in familiar classrooms but this may not always be possible;
- Provision will be a maximum of two days per week, in light of the numbers of children we can safely accommodate in the building at any one time;
- The school day is slightly staggered to reduce numbers of children arriving / leaving at the same time;
- We will be offering a restricted curriculum (for example we will not be swimming; leaving the school building; or holding events such as assemblies);
- There is very restricted access to specialist rooms such as soft play or sensory rooms;
- Staff will be wearing personal, protective equipment (PPE) at times;
- Provision will be based at the SPC site, regardless of where children currently attend.
- The school's nursing team are not guaranteed to be available as they are currently supporting vulnerable children in the community;
- Provision will be reviewed on a regular basis and will follow medical advice. If advice changes, we have a responsibility to respond accordingly.

There were a few common questions in the first survey and we thought it would be useful to refer to them again below:

Will my child receive home-school transport?

Once we have confirmed arrangements for your child to return to school, the preferred option is for you to transport your child to and from school if you are able to. SEN Transport will offer you parental mileage to support this. If you are unable to transport your child to and from school, please contact SEN Transport on 020 8461 7940 and they will discuss this with you further.

What will happen at lunchtimes?

We would encourage your child to have a school lunch and these will be provided by Nourish, our regular catering contractor. They will be offering a revised Deli menu (baguettes, wraps, vegetable sticks, fruit, cake, etc) but if you would prefer to send your child in with a packed lunch, that would be fine.

What will my child be doing at school?

The curriculum offer will be different for your child in school and they will not have the same access to their usual timetable (such as swimming, trips or bigger events). The main focus will be to reconnect with other children and adults and to settle back into a school routine (albeit a different routine to the one they had previously). Their school-based support will replace their current home-based support and please send your child's home-school contact book in with them so we can let you know how they have got on during the day.

What should I do if my child or anyone at home has Coronavirus symptoms?

If this is the case, your child should not come into school and as per the current NHS and government advice, you should keep them at home for a period of seven days. Where symptoms continue after seven days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear.

What will happen if a child or staff member develops coronavirus symptoms at school?

If a child or staff member develops Coronavirus symptoms, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days, and the rest of the household should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and children who are attending school will have access to a test if they display Coronavirus symptoms and should not return to school before the results of the test are known.

What will happen if a child or staff member tests negative?

If a child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and their fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

What will happen if a child or staff member tests positive?

If a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their "team" will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Other household members do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms.

So, if you would like your child to return to school for the final month of term, please

[CLICK HERE to respond to the survey](#)

For those of you who are keeping your child at home at the moment, please be assured that we will continue to provide support in the ways that are most helpful to you. We are thinking of you and sending you all our love. And, for those of you whose children may return soon, we look forward to seeing them again. At this stage, it is impossible to say exactly what the situation will be in September but we will continue to keep you fully updated as any developments arise. In the meantime, and on behalf of everyone at Riverside School, we want to say that you are doing an incredible job, in such challenging circumstances, and we send you all our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher