

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to say thank you to all our parents for the amazing support you have given our schools during these difficult times. We have sincerely appreciated all your very kind comments and gestures. We have been delighted to see so many of our children return to school over the last few weeks and are very excited to think we can see everyone in September. We have missed all the children and can't wait to see them again. Whilst school life will still require very careful guidelines, we are looking forward to seeing all our children every day and ensuring that children have experiences of all areas of the curriculum not just English and Maths.

There have been, and continue to be, significant demands on our schools to ensure that actions like a comprehensive risk assessment are in place. The risk assessment covers every area of school life and must reflect the government guidance. All school plans have to be approved by the board of Trustees before a school can open. From the beginning of the school closures in March and the wider opening of our schools on June 1<sup>st</sup>, all plans have been approved. The latest plans for a September opening will be reviewed by the board on July 14<sup>th</sup>. We have absolute confidence that all plans will be approved.

In this letter we are going to set out expectations for September for all our schools, our pupils and for you as parents and carers. Following this letter individual schools will write to you with any specific arrangements for your child's school.

### **Public Health England Guidance**

We have had guidance from Public Health England throughout this period and we must continue to follow this until we are told otherwise. We must also engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. Where we have any confirmed cases of Covid 19 we will follow the process for notifying parents and follow the advice of our local health advisers.

Children who have been attending school through this period will be very familiar with daily expectations for preventing the spread of the disease. For those children who have not returned so far they can expect:

- Regular hand washing throughout the day
- Surfaces and materials cleaned during the day
- Tissues and bins in each classroom to encourage all children to 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it'
- Children kept in the bubble that they will start the new year in. This is likely to be their class bubble but in some instances this could be smaller or could be a year group bubble where there is more than one class in that year group. In our very small schools this may be a mixed year bubble. Your child's school will be very clear about your child's bubble so that you can have confidence in the arrangements. Children will not mix between bubbles.

The government guidance has been very clear that we must follow the Public Health England guidance and if we do so children are safe to be in school.

#### Uniform

We expect all children to return in full school uniform at the start of term in September. There is no requirement for extra cleaning of school uniforms and we believe that this will set the right expectation of learning as children return to their classrooms. Children are allowed to bring bags etc. but we would ask that only the essential items are brought into schools.

#### School meals

School meals will resume as normal so children will have access to a hot school meal and of course can bring their sandwiches as normal. There will be staggered lunchtime arrangements to ensure that bubbles do not mix.

#### Arrangements for the school day

These will be specific to each school so please do read your school letter very carefully. There will be staggered starts and staggered finishes in most schools. The arrival and leaving arrangements that schools have put in place over this period will remain in place in most schools. Playtimes and lunchtimes will also be staggered to ensure that bubbles do not mix.

#### Breakfast and Afterschool clubs

This is a very complex area and will be very specific to each school. Breakfast and After school clubs potentially involve mixing children from different bubbles and we are committed to avoiding this. Each school will survey their parents to understand whether there is a need and will then consider whether they can provide before and after school care and adhere to the guidance.

#### Travel to school

Very few of our children travel on public or school transport. Where that is the case the advice is that they should wear face coverings on the bus and remove this safely at the school gate. Where Head teachers know of these arrangements they will liaise with parents directly over arrangements for their school.

#### Attendance

As you will have heard the government expects all children to return to school in September. We believe this is essential for learning to resume. We also understand that some parents may remain anxious. Please do contact your child's school as we are confident that we can reassure all parents that we have followed government guidance and that children will be as safe as possible in school. You will also have heard that fines will be issued where children do not attend school.



## Behaviour

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We are adding a section to all school's behaviour policies regarding behaviour expectations under the current Covid measures. We will be very clear about the specific behaviours that will be unacceptable whilst we are working under the guidance.

## School Offices

School Offices remain closed to parents and no parents are allowed within the school buildings. Entry and exit to all schools will largely follow the arrangements that have been operating over the last few months and certainly since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please continue to use email, text or phone to speak to your child's school.

## Summer School Activity Club

We are delighted that we have been able to set up a holiday club in both Taunton and Chard. This will run for six weeks in the summer break. The cost of a place is £15 per day or £65 for the week. If you would like your child to attend one of the clubs please do contact your child's school for further information.

Mrs Suzanne Flack

CEO, The Redstart Learning Partnership