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Wednesday, 15 July 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Upper Secondary Bubble

I hope that you are well and that you and your family remain safe. Many of you will have been delighted to hear the news last week that schools will be open for all students from September. We wanted to get in touch to explain what you can expect from us and what we will expect from all of our parents and carers. I have highlighted a few important areas around End of Year reports, Attendance, Curriculum and Pastoral Support and our plans for opening in September.

When the Government and Public Health England made the decision to ask schools and colleges to only open to a small number of children and young people, this was done with the aim of reducing transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), to protect the NHS and save lives. As the situation improved, the government began to consider how they could bring more children and young people back into education settings, and since 15th June we have been open to welcome back as many children and young people to Church Lawton as we could safely cater for. The Government and PHE have stated in their guidance that the risk to children and young people themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school or college.

Now, the circumstances have changed again. The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased and the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running. The Government have provided guidance about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within education settings.

Returning to Church Lawton School is vital for our students' education and for their wellbeing. Time out of an education setting is detrimental to cognitive and academic development. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and student's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all students can return to school.

We are really looking forward to seeing all of our students again. We have had an increasing number of students in school over the past month and they have all been glad to get back to learning with their peers. We know that students learn best in the school environment but that they flourish when they have the support from home. It is exciting being able to get back into school in September. We are currently implementing plans to be able to welcome everyone back safely and in accordance with Government guidance.

Visits to school and EHCP Reviews

Please can all parents and carers be aware that any visit to school must be very carefully managed and we would encourage parents to contact the school first, please do not attend school unless you have been specifically requested to do so. It is important that schools manage all and any visit to the school as we are restricting movements of both staff and students in school. With this in mind we will not be conducting reviews in school, they will continue to be completed virtually, we will continue to support parents and families with ensuring all information and reports are made available to you in a timely manner.

End of Year Report

Parents will receive an end of year report for your child; we have written reports based on each pupil's progress until March. Each report will be sent individually to parents; this process has taken much longer than normal so please bear with us.

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all students to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we'll be recording attendance and following up on any absences. If your children have been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government is due to pause this guidance on 1 August if there's a continued decline in coronavirus transmission rates. That means they should be able to come back to school in September.

However, if you've received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We'll be offering remote education to these students.

I am asking for your support in helping to prepare your child for their return. This will vary depending on the lockdown experience of your child. It may be resuming appropriate sleep patterns or reducing time on gadgets. When we return in September our standards and expectations will be the same as they were when we finished on March. All students should return in full school uniform and be compliant with our uniform policy, all students should let any extreme hairstyle grow out; sort out any unnatural hair colours and that they will be asked to remove non-compliant piercings. It is important that we are consistent with our expectations and standards. We pride ourselves on being a caring community and I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this.

Pastoral support

We're aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our students. Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support when returning to school, such as if they feel anxious about coming. We will also work to address well-being issues that will have arisen from the situation that we have been in. A key part to the successful return to school will be reinforcing our values, particularly resilience. Again, I believe we can work together as the adults in our community to support our children.

You can get in touch with admin@naschurchlawton.cheshire.sch.uk to do this.

Curriculum

Although there'll need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we'll still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum.

Our teachers have been working hard to plan the new Catch Up and Recovery Curriculum from September. Teachers are working together to ensure children are given the best chances to catch up the lost learning in many subjects including Reading, Writing, Maths, and Science. Over the course of the year, our curriculum and timetable will be more flexible to respond to the different needs of the children who return to school. We will prioritise their wellbeing and emotional response to the pandemic by including lots of personal and social education, wellbeing, creative arts and outdoor learning as well as Reading, Writing, Maths and Science. All the staff want to make sure our plans are based on the best research and guidance available. At Church Lawton, we have a child-centred approach and look forward to when we can welcome all the children back to school safely.

We will be completing some baseline assessments with all students when we return in September to identify their starting points and gaps in their knowledge created over lockdown, this should take no longer than two weeks.

We would aim to return to our normal school curriculum in the summer term of 2021. For students taking qualifications like GCSE and A levels, we are waiting for further details about how these exams will be run in summer 2021

I am very aware that the current situation and our planned changes should give us some semblance of 'normal school'. However, there are some restrictions in an around maintaining the integrity of the planned bubbles within the school environment. As a school we are doing all we can to make our provision the best we can. All the staff here at Church Lawton have done and will do everything we can to support your child.

The local authority transport teams are prepared for social distancing measures and arrangements for social distancing are in place so please be prepared for different looking taxis, drivers and escorts in order that both students and transport teams are as safe as possible during these coronavirus changes.

Students in school will work in their normal classrooms completing their normal timetable. There will be some changes to entry and exit from lessons and these are specifically designed to reduce the number of students in the corridor at one time.

We will also be introducing steps such as rotating use for the sensory field and library to ensure that only one bubble has access to this area at any one time. Break time and lunchtimes will be staggered, and the dining room will be cleaned after each sitting.

Your child will be based in the **Upper Secondary Bubble**.

In order that we can transition students back into school we will be completing a phased return into school, this will largely affect Secondary and 6th Form students who be starting school on different

days. This will ensure that students can orientate themselves around the secondary school and become accustomed to different exit and entry points in the classes and on the corridor.

Please ensure that you are familiar with when your child can come into school in September as we will not be able to accept students attending school on the wrong date.

Commencing	Class Group	Bubble
3rd September 2020	Austen, Newton, Branson	Upper Secondary
	Thompson, Darwin, Hawking	Middle
	Franklin, Churchill	Primary
4th September	Matthews, Lennon	Lower Secondary
	Thompson, Darwin, Hawking	Middle
	Franklin, Churchill	Primary
7th September and beyond.	All students	Primary, Middle, All Secondary

We will review the bubble arrangements each half term. I must also be clear that my staff and I will work hard and as diligently as possible to reduce any risks to students contracting the Coronavirus but the risk can never be zero.

What I can tell you at this point is that the bubble process will be based on local authority and government guidelines and our own risk assessments. However, it is vital that we reduce any risk or likelihood of the virus coming into the school, if you or anyone in your family develop [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#) please do not come into school, we must emphasise to you that you **should not** send your child into school if you or anyone in your family has tested positively for COVID-19. You must follow current COVID-19 guidance to [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). Should your child present with any symptoms in school we will follow our procedures and contact you in order to arrange their safe collection. All households can now [Arrange to have a test](#).

Please remember, this is all dependent on government and scientific advice. If this advice changes over the coming weeks, we will obviously follow that guidance and be in contact with you again.

Should full closure be necessary in the event of a local lockdown our approach through the recent lockdown can be replicated very easily.

We're extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from the school community. We'll continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice.

Please remember that school will be open for exam result collection. Due to restrictions around coronavirus, exam results will need to be collected at specific appointment times, these will be sent out separately. If you are unable to attend school on this date and time we will post the exam results to the students home address held on our school information system.

Finally, in light of the changes around social distancing we have made some temporary changes to our Behaviour Policy which I have attached. We have created this appendix in accordance with the latest government guidance surrounding schools' wider reopening from 2nd July 2020.

Should you require any further information please contact the school email admin@naschurchlawton.cheshire.sch.uk

Yours faithfully



Paul Scales
Principal
Church Lawton School