



31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst it has felt like an eternity that things have been less than 'normal' for school, our communities and the Nation, I can't quite believe that we are at the end of the Spring Term and two thirds of the way through another academic year. Another year in which children have not all been in school throughout that time for the second academic year running. I am incredibly proud of the resilience our pupils have shown throughout, as I am sure you are, and thank you once again for supporting them, and us, through such challenging times.

The sunshine this week has brought some light relief, along with the first stage of the route map out of lockdown; let us hope that the data continues to allow this route to run its course. We must recognise, however, that Tameside still have high rates compared to the rest of the country and that our region is currently the highest in Greater Manchester. This means there is still some serious work to do to ensure we do not get left behind with any local restrictions whilst the rest of the country sails on to the summer we are all dreaming of. Please continue to follow the government guidance over the course of the Easter holidays whilst enjoying some of the freedoms we are now being afforded.

## Contact Tracing over Easter

During the holidays, we will once again, be expected to provide contact tracing for any positive cases that arise during the time in which this would affect pupils and staff in school. To support the government Track and Trace system the following measures will be in place during these holidays in line with Department for Education guidance:

- *Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.*
- *For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school can be contacted to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. To report a case during this period of time, please email the following email address: [covid@dowson.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:covid@dowson.tameside.sch.uk)*
- *School staff will not remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. As the last teaching day is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, no coronavirus contact tracing will be expected of school staff beyond Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April.*
- *Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term which is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.*

## Summer Term

### Uniform

With the welcome of the nicer weather comes the change in uniform policy for the summer term, which permits children to wear smart grey school shorts or blue and white checked summer dresses. We recognise it has been difficult to replace





shoes and other elements of worn out or out-grown uniform during the period of lockdown but as non-essential retail begins to re-open, please ensure your children are back in full school uniform in line with school policy after the holidays. Please note that the PTA do have a stock of pre-loved uniform if you would like to request any items and that the Dowson Family Facebook page continues to be a great place to share items too.

### After School Clubs

We have had some enquiries as to when after school clubs may be re-starting.

The multi-sports clubs for each year group with Mr Allen that were set to start in January – for which we already had a register of children – will recommence after half term. If you had been allocated a place on this for your child and do not wish to take this up, please let us know so that we may offer this to someone else. There are still spaces in Year 5 and 6 if anyone would like to request a place for their child please complete the survey and they will be selected by ballot. These clubs will begin in the first week back. We also have 2 new clubs available, a Craft Club for Reception children and a Baking Club for Year 5, both these clubs can be applied for using the survey and places will be chosen by ballot on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Both these clubs will start on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April and will run for 4 weeks.

The After School Club survey link is <https://forms.gle/TUb952Cu3ehftdqe9>

### Statutory Assessments (SATS)

The Government, for the second year running, have cancelled all statutory assessments in primary schools, in recognition of the disruption to the pupils' education over the period of the pandemic. This means that pupils will not be expected to take SATS in Year 2 and Year 6 and the Year 1 children will not be expected to sit a Phonics Screening Check.

Whilst this is a welcome acknowledgment of the uneven view this measure would give of pupils' achievement, it is important that school understand the profile of children's learning in order to plan and teach in the best way to ensure continued progress. This is particularly important for children transitioning to High School so that we can share this information with their new school. It is also important that you get a good indication of your child's achievement in their end of year report and that their teacher for next year understands what they can and cannot do. Tests are just one form of assessment that will help us to gather this insight. With this in mind, we will, as recommended by the Standards Testing Agency, deliver some past papers with children in the statutory year groups and our usual summer term tests across other year groups in school.

A letter regarding parent consultation for the summer term will be sent to you after the holidays.

I wish you all a safe, bright and sunny Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn

Principal