



ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust
Keelings Road, Northwood, Stoke on Trent, ST1 6QA
Telephone: 01782 236745 Fax: 01782 234639
Executive Principal: Mrs S Moran

“Every child deserves to be the best they can be”

July 6th 2020

ESPRIT Schools Covid response update

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to share some information with you about the end of this school year and some early planning for when all children return to our schools in September.

All children will be taking part in transition activities in preparation for moving into their new classes and year groups in September. These activities will be in school or shared via class dojo. Our Year 2 children will have an opportunity to visit Grove and our Y6 children to visit Birches Head Academy. We will share with you via text and class dojo who your child's new class teacher will be.

Summer holidays

I would like to clarify that we are closed over the summer holidays. We will close on Thursday 16th July and open on Tuesday September 1st to staff and **Thursday September 3rd to children**. I am sure that you are aware we have been operating under very difficult circumstances and there will be lots to prepare in readiness for September. I wish to pay tribute to our Principals, leaders and staff for all their efforts in their work during this crisis and ensuring that we have remained open for vulnerable children and children of key workers since March, including the Easter holiday period and bank holidays. I know from the many kind messages from parents and families that you appreciate all the hard work and organisation that has gone on to provide home learning, welfare calls and free school meals and vouchers for our families. We have worked closely with the Port Vale hub to provide food hampers to families and are very grateful for their support.

Free School meals

As many of you are already aware, children who are entitled to Free school meals will receive a voucher for the whole six week period. Our schools will be sending information out about this.

September

We received guidance last week from the Government and need time to respond to this so that our schools are as safe as they can possibly be in September. As part of our MAT approach to ensuring the health and safety of all pupils, families and staff we will be operating in a similar way to currently but will need to ;

- review our start and end day times to include staggered arrangements in the morning and afternoons as parents will not be allowed to gather outside school gates and need to avoid busy travel times;
- re organise school spaces to accommodate safer learning;
- plan increased cleaning;
- restrict in school movement and visitors;
- amend lunch and play times

Our schools will be sharing specific details with you but approximate timings are likely to be;

Grove 8:30 – 2:45 Hamilton and Northwood 8:45 – 2:30.

This will enable us to ensure children have access to their education entitlement and schools are deep cleaned at the end of each day.

Before and After School provision

Arrangements for Before and After School provision will be shared with you before September and details of how to book and pay for this will be made available by your individual schools.



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Attendance

The Government has stated that all children **must** return to school in September and they will fine any parents who do not send their children to school. We recognise that many of you are still concerned about safety, we want to assure you that our schools will be as safe as possible for your children to attend but only if we, you and your children follow all the health and safety guidance we will be issuing in a parent handbook ready for September. We have to have a Risk assessment in place and a Recovery plan for any lost learning. Both of these are crucial documents and we need your support if we are to keep your children safe and address any gaps in learning. I think all of us would want our lives to return to as near as normal as possible as soon as possible. Our children need to come to school, they deserve a first class education.

In the meantime, keep in contact, stay safe and keep in good spirits. Thank you for your ongoing support in these challenging circumstances.

With very best wishes,

Stephanie Moran
Executive Principal