

# Update



17th June 2020

Dear Parents,

The recent announcements from the government mean that they are giving us some flexibility to decide what is best for our school and our community. As a middle school we are taking account of both the Primary and Secondary guidance. Following government announcements and the many different versions of plans that consider the needs of our pupils and community, we would like to update you of our current position. What we do may not be the same as other schools but that is ok as long as it is the best that we can do for our academy and our community and we are working closely with our Frome Learning Partnership schools.

Currently, we have pupils working within their year groups across the academy, divided into their small bubbles. The geography of the academy is slightly different as it has been separated into four year areas and pupils are working within bubbles with the staff they are used to. This has enabled pupils to adjust well to the 'new normal'. We have welcomed back just under 50% of our year 6 pupils and the number of pupils from key worker families across the academy continues to grow. In total we have nearly a third of our population attending school yet we are nearly at capacity due to the limited number of pupils we can fit into each classroom and staffing numbers. Each member of our staff team is working hard to welcome pupils into our classrooms; to update our digital offer; to provide pupils without technology with paper based learning and to liaise with pupils and families. A special mention to our dedicated premises and cleaning teams whose work load has significantly increased to keep our academy safe and sparkling.

Our next priority group are our year 8 pupils who our board of trustees have agreed to invite back for a socially distanced farewell in the last couple of days of term. A survey is being sent out to year 8 parents on Parent Pay to enable us to plan these weeks safely. We do not have capacity to invite years 5 and 7 back before the end of term which we understand will be a disappointment to many families. I hope you understand the thinking behind our decision and that we are currently investigating ways we can virtually end the year for pupils in years 5, 6 and 7.

We look forward to welcoming our new year 5 pupils joining us from September. A welcome pack will be delivered to our new families during the week beginning 22nd June and further transition information for all pupils will be launched on our website on Monday 29th June.

In line with other Frome schools, uniform will not be compulsory for the first term in September. We have made this decision bearing in mind the current expectation for daily clean clothing; ordering and collection challenges and possible financial hardship. Further details about how to order will be sent out soon.

Please don't hesitate to contact us by email or telephone if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Miss E. Wilkes  
Head teacher

