



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

OBP

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**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

10 July 2020

Good afternoon

I hope this letter finds you well? It seems strange to think that this is the penultimate week of the school year. In previous years transition would have happened and we would be looking forward to our normal end of year events and activities. Please excuse the length of this letter but it contains a lot of information.

As you will be aware last week the government made its announcement that all schools would reopen in September 2020 and that there is an expectation that all pupils will return to full time education. I realise that there will be some of you who are uncomfortable with this decision and I understand your concerns however it has been made very clear that the schools must reopen and as a result we have been planning for this.

I hope that you will understand that we have not been given much time to plan for this and whilst we have a broad outline the detail planning still needs to be fully developed. Therefore, I will share with you the broad plans today and you will receive more detailed information from the heads of school in the middle of August.

## The broad plans are as follows:

- All pupils will return in September 2020.
- All pupils will be in bubbles made up of their year group and will stay in allocated areas and staff will visit the areas to teach. Pupils will not be allowed to mix with pupils in other bubbles.
- Uniforms will be worn except on days when the pupils have PE. On that day they will come in wearing school PE kit as we do not have the space for the pupils to change. The pupils can wear tracksuits on top of their PE kit on those days.
- Pupils will have break and lunch times but these will be in the bubbles and the area allocated to them. Each year group will have space outside that they can use.
- All pupils will follow their normal timetable and subjects.
- Initially there will not be any breakfast club or after school activities and the Year 9 enrichment programme will not run so all Astley pupils will finish the Wednesday of week one at 2.05pm.
- There will be staggered start and end of days but these will only be 5 to 10 minutes. Further details will be shared with you in August 2020.
- Food will be available but only at lunch time. We will have a system in place for pre ordering and cashless payment most likely using contactless cards.
- Each school will let you know what will happen for their pupils in regard to equipment.
- There will be no lockers initially.

We will have a system in place for supporting pupils with any anxiety issues and also a system in place should anyone show Covid-19 symptoms.

For those pupils who catch school transport buses we have not yet heard what is happening for those pupils.

### **The first week back.**

The first week back will have a slightly different look to it from previous years.

Monday 31 August 2020. Bank holiday

Tuesday 1st September 2020. Staff training day no pupils in school.

Wednesday 2nd September. Due to the length of the lockdown and the fact that a large number of pupils have not been into school we are looking at some form of pastoral event which may be a 1 to 1 interview or a session with their tutor and tutor group. The details on this have not been finalised yet. This will be to see how they are; how the holiday has been and for students to see what the bubble areas are and to answer any questions they may have. This will also allow us to discuss what gaps the pupil may have in their learning and gather information about planning catch up work. I realise that you might be thinking why are they not straight back in? The simple answer is that we have found with the year 10s and 12s that it helped for a meeting to happen beforehand so that everyone knew how the pupil was doing and to make sure that they were ready for school and to answer any questions you or your children may have. The exception to this is that we may have the year 5s into school as normal to help with their transition. Further details will follow on this.

Thursday 3rd September 2020. Back to school for every pupil. There may be a staggered start with year 5 and 9 starting first to get them sorted and then the rest of the year groups will start. The expectation is that all pupils will be in school by 10.15 at the latest. The day will then run as normal with pupils in their bubbles.

Friday 4 September 2020. This will be a normal day with pupils coming in on the agreed staggered start and will follow a normal timetable in their bubbles.

As I say further details will be shared with you in August. These will include where the bubbles are, what the expectations are with regard to behaviour and the new home school agreement. Also, it will include how lunches will work and the start and end times for each year group as well as how you will be able to come into school if you need to. Finally, it will cover what the health and safety routines, expectations and precautions are going to be.

I realise that this all seems very different and it is but we are trying to respond in a way that ensures our young people are safe and also get a good education. Once you have had the more detailed plans there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions or raise points or ideas.

I hope that helps answer a few of your questions but understand that it probably raises many more!

On a separate but related note, I have to remind you that should you go on holiday abroad and it is to an area that is not green or yellow in the government's list then you will have to isolate for 2 weeks on your return. Also please do not send your child to school if they are showing any symptoms of Covid 19.

As I mentioned last week there are some staff who are leaving our federation this year and some staff joining us. To those staff who are leaving, thank you for all you have done for the young people of the Seaton Valley Federation and to those staff joining us welcome this is a wonderful place to work with outstanding pupils I am sure you will have a great time working here.

**Staff leaving**

SSMS - Deborah Scott  
SSMS - Andy Cunningham  
SSMS - Dion Waterston  
SSMS - Kate Grimshaw

Mrs M-A Dowson, SVF Extra-Curricular & Income Generation Manager left us in March to take up a promoted position as Business Manager at Monkseaton High School.  
Mr P Hodge, ACHS/WMS Caretaker has moved to a promoted position as Site Manager at Atkinson House School.

**New Starters**

Tim Anderson - SSMS Teacher - Year 5  
Becky Porter - SSMS Teacher - Maths  
Angela Kelly - ACHS Teacher - French  
Laura Philipson - ACHS Teacher - Maths  
Philip Suetterlin - ACHS Teacher - Physics  
Alex Henry - ACHS/WMS Caretaker  
Vikki Johnson - SVF Part-time Librarian  
Lisa Dunlop - SSMS Data and Attendance Officer SSMS  
Shar Gales - ACHS/WMS Teaching Assistant  
Rose Jenson - WMS Technician  
Abbie Broomfield - ACHS Technician (Maternity Cover)

As you will be aware the schools are not open for pupils over the holidays apart from results days. Furthermore, quite a number of support staff who work in the holidays will not be available for the first 3 weeks of the holidays as they have a rest, recharge their batteries and get ready for the new year. Please understand that if you contact any of the schools in those 3 weeks you may not get a quick reply. I am sure that you will understand that. I also hope that all of you get some rest as well.

I will write to you again once more this term just to say my final thanks and also give you any more details should we have them. As always please stay safe and many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



John Barnes  
Executive Headteacher