

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you as far as I can regarding the reopening of Unity Academy following the announcements this week and also provide some details for the remainder of this term.

Summer term

The arrangements now in place will remain in place for the next two weeks. Thank you to all students, parents and staff who have worked so well together to make the phased return a safe one. Given the very significant disruption that has already taken place this academic year **I do not intend** to close school early on the last day of term. The arrangements in place around start and finish times for key worker children, Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6 will operate as 'normal' on Friday 17th July.

As previously communicated, there is no provision at Unity Academy for Key Worker children over the Summer holiday. In addition to this a number of our staff work all year round and have cancelled leave throughout the first 7 months of this calendar year to deal with the COVID-19 emergency including site and technical support staff, administrative staff and senior staff. As such, in order to enable all staff to take leave before September the academy will be closed for the first 3 weeks of the Summer holiday, parents should note that no queries emailed or left on the answer phone will be responded to in the first 3 weeks. I am sure parents will support me in ensuring that staff who have worked tirelessly, often voluntarily working above their contractual hours, are able to enjoy a period of leave before Summer.

FSM Vouchers

Parents will receive vouchers in the week beginning 13th July for the Summer period, a detailed letter will be sent to parents explaining what you need to do next.

September

I am delighted to confirm that in line with Government guidance issued this week, we will be able to reopen to all year groups, full time from September. It is important that parents and children understand that this is not a return to normal and that some very significant changes will remain in place to ensure the safety of everyone. The detailed guidance was published late last week and we will spend this week working through it in detail to formulate our reopening plan. We will communicate this with parents in written form and through video presentations in the week beginning 13th July. We will also issue separate written guidance and videos for children in the same week. I would kindly ask for your patience and understanding as we prepare detailed plans this week, as I am sure you understand the challenges of keeping 'bubbles' separate are intensified for an all through school with shared spaces and we need to ensure our plans are safe and provide quality education.

I can now also confirm that the arrangements I issued last week regarding the return of year groups in the first week is as shown below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Year groups to attend</u>
31 st August 2020	Bank Holiday – No children or staff to attend
1 st September 2020	Staff Training Day – only staff should attend
2 nd September 2020	Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 7 and Year 11 should attend
3 rd September 2020	Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 should attend
4 th September 2020	Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 should attend

Start and end times and the entrances/exits to be used for each year group will be confirmed next week. Parents should note that the Government guidance means we **must** use staggered arrival and departure times for children and that at present we think it is highly unlikely that children in Y7-11 will be able to collect their siblings in younger years. We will confirm this once we have finished our detailed planning.

Uniform

Parents should be aware that we will expect **all** children to attend in full and correct uniform in September, a guidance sheet to support this will be distributed with the information around reopening.

This period of time has been one of incredible challenge for us all, the feedback we have received from parents and children has been incredible. I wanted to thank each and every one of you who has written, tweeted or called with feedback over the last few weeks – we have appreciated it.

We are all looking forward to having a full school again in September and looking forward to sharing our detailed plans for September with you next week

Yours sincerely,

S. Cooke

Mr S Cooke
Headteacher