

Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Have a lovely weekend…*

**LOCAL AND NATIONAL PICTURE**

We’ve continued to receive regular local updates regarding infection rates from Trafford’s Public Health team. There remains a ‘sustained downward trend of Covid cases in Trafford and this is in the context of continual and increased testing, including access to new mobile testing units being available in Trafford’ which is, of course, great to hera. Fingers crossed that this trend continues.

**SCHOOL UPDATE**

Although school is different, it continues to be a safe and positive environment for the children. They continue to display our school values and despite any lingering uncertainty, the children remain the reason for our school being a wonderful place to be.

**TOUCHING BASE**

Thank you to all of you for facilitating either meetings with your child’s teacher at school or by telephone. Staff have all commented on how nice it has been to chat to you and your children where possible and we are all looking forward to getting back into things in September.

**WELCOME BACK SESSIONS**

We’ve mentioned that school is closed over the summer. We understand that this means that some of our children will have been out of school for almost six months…we’ll have work to do on their return and we are planning for this as part of our transition arrangements in September. Despite this, there may be some of you who are still really concerned about your children’s anxiety about returning to school. If you feel that your child is not going to cope and the thought of returning to school causes them really worry, then get in touch with us. We aim to put on one or two sessions (of an hour, or so) for small groups of children who are already showing signs of anxiety about school. The sessions will be specifically designed to support children in addressing these significant worries, so we ask that you only contact us if you feel your child meets this criteria. Let us know.

**SUMMER**

*School of Sport* have told us that they will be able to provide some provision over the summer. You will receive separate correspondence from them regarding this and will need to organise through them at <https://www.schoolofsport.org.uk/holiday-club/urmston-primary-school/> or if your child has previously attended their holiday club you can simply email them to book - info@schoolofsport.org.uk

**BREAKFAST AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS**

We’ve been in contact with *School of Play* and they are working on their provision for September and will be sending out further information soon. We are also in conversation with our other providers about how that will work too, so watch this space.

**SEPTEMBER: Risk Assessments**

Following the government’s guidance for full reopening from September, we continue to work hard in getting our risk assessment right for the start of the next academic year. As you can imagine, this is not easy and there is a lot of mitigation and balancing of risk and children’s needs. Once leaders, governors and staff have gone through it with a fine-toothed comb, we’ll forward it on to you all so that you have a clear picture on how Urmston Primary will run from September and to give you confidence in how we are going about these changes. However, there are some things we can tell you now…

***Staggered times:*** Provisionally, it is still likely that we will have the staggered start times of 8.40am – 3.15pm and 8.55am – 3.30pm and these will be based on ensuring less traffic in each of the buildings, in our playgrounds and in the streets outside school. We will still not be lining up in the mornings to further avoid congestion and children can drift in at the start and and out at the end of the day.

***Lunchtimes:*** Due to the difficulties in organising lunch times we have agreed with the local authority that we **will not be serving hot dinners for the first half term.** This will reduce children gathering in larger groups in the hall and therefore reduce the possible risk of transmission. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still get free packed lunches or you have the option for your child to bring their own. Year 3-6, our children have the option of paying for a packed lunch from our kitchen, or to bring their own. We’ll let you know further details soon. ***‘Bubbles’:*** These will be class-based as much as possible. However, they will extend to year groups at certain times, particularly in the mornings, and there may be some further mixing for small group interventions. Guidance acknowledges that ‘*given the decrease in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects, schools may need to change the emphasis on bubbles within their system of controls and increase the size of these groups’*.

Again, we’ll be sharing this with you in our September risk assessment at some point next week, although this will certainly be subject to change and dependent on local and national guidance and the ever changing picture here.

**SEPTEMBER: Recovery Planning and a ‘Recovery Curriculum’**

We are also putting together our School Development Plan for September. As we’ve mentioned before, our first priority will be the social and emotional wellbeing of our children before even beginning to pick up on any gaps in academic understanding and recapping some inevitable missed learning. We’ll keep you abreast of this and reiterate the importance of you communicating with us as we support your children in their full return to school.

**NEXT YEAR’S TEACHERS**

We mentioned last week that current Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 children will find out who their teachers are soon. Teachers will have a little video message coming your way next week. Reception and Year 1…because we are all returning to our own classes in September for a few days, we didn’t want to confuse the children and so we’ll let you all know during that first week or so and make transition as smooth as possible.

**SEPTEMBER START DATES AND ADDITIONAL INSET DAY**

Because of the significant challenges that have arisen due to Covid 19, our usual September procedures will change so that transition can be as smooth as possible. We’ll be making these clear to you in a separate letter. Furthermore, ***in order for schools to ensure smooth reopening procedures in September, the local authority have suggested an additional INSET day for schools can be taken early in the next academic year. We will let know when this will be before the end of term but it is possibly going to be Wednesday 9th September so that we can iron out any issues and to aid us in our transition arrangements.*** Thank you for your understanding.

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OFSTED**

In the grand scheme of things, this is low on the scale for level of importance but we wanted to let you know that following our complaint to Ofsted, they have agreed that Personal Development in our school is Good. We are pleased that the area we value most – our ethos and values and the personal development of our children – has been acknowledged. We now move on and continue our work in making our school one that everyone recognises as a great place to be part of. We want to reiterate that we greatly appreciate your support following our inspection and have already worked hard on embedding Art and Music into our curriculum plans (and they will be ready to be implemented in the next academic year), which, as you remember, was a core area for improvement. The Local Authority have also been working with our Early Years staff on our Nursery provision and we’re already excited about some of the developments here! We’ll make sure we keep you aware of how that is going during the next academic year.

**READING BOOKS AND RESOURCES AMNESTY!**

***As we’ve said over the last two weeks, please can you return school reading books and any other resources that we sent home prior to lockdown at your earliest convenience. Many thanks.***

**AWARENESS, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

As mentioned, we are liaising with the local authority in setting up a working party across all Trafford schools to look how anti-racism and awareness of equality and diversity might improve our communities and our curriculum. We’ll be in touch about the part we’d like parents to play in this and appreciate your support.

**BEING MORE**

‘Being more’ and being active in our positive behaviours will continue to shape the vision for everything about our school. Please do keep your wonderful examples of children being more coming in. They will always cheer us all up and give us reasons to be positive for the future.

**STRETFORD FOOD BANK**

We are still collecting at school so please keep those donations coming. They are still needed and will continue to be.

**PRIDE**

Finally, and importantly, there are, of course, things that all of us could have dealt with differently during this difficult period. However, we wanted to share how proud we are to be supporting and working with our community through this crisis and of the relationships that we’ve been able to forge and maintain with you all. As school leaders we are also tremendously proud of our staff and feel extremely lucky to work with such dedicated and passionate professionals. We look forward to this continuing in September.

As always, if you have any questions whatsoever, please do just ask.

Best wishes,

*Mr Parker and Mr Doherty*