

Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Do take a look on our Twitter page for the resilience calendar for ‘Jump Back July’!*

*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. The number of positive cases in Trafford has continued to fall this week and this is obviously really positive for all of us. We’ll continue to remain vigilant and careful (as you all will too, no doubt!) and Trafford’s Public Health team will continue to frequently review this data and keep us updated.

**SCHOOL UPDATE**

Since our wider opening on the 15th June, we’ve had a steady increase in numbers as more people have continued to return to work, and confidence in safety measures in school and a decrease in infection rates locally and (mostly) nationally has continued. As mentioned before, we allowed for this increased capacity and so we are confident in being able to sustain the social distancing and health and safety measures set out in our risk assessment. We are obviously all very happy to have more children in school and are very much looking forward to inviting everyone back in September.

**TOUCHING BASE**

It was lovely to see many of you on Wednesday at our parent/child/teacher meetings. If you’ve yet to request a face-to-face or telephone appointment for Wednesday 8th, please get in touch with your child’s class teacher.

**SUMMER**

We let you know last week that our school will be closed over the summer. We’ve been in regular contact with *School of Sport* about what they might be able to offer but unfortunately the lack of clarity from government hasn’t allowed them to let you know what they can provide as yet. We’re very sorry we can’t be any clearer for now as we know many of you are looking to make plans. As soon as they know, you will know.

**SEPTEMBER…GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE SAYS…**

Last week, we wrote this…

*We have been doing a lot of planning for the next academic year. The government have told us to plan for full time return for all pupils and this is what we are doing. However, we are also planning a contingency based on all pupils returning part time on a rota basis, just in case advice changes.*

*We have already let you know that children will return after the summer holidays in the same class, with the same teacher, and we’ll be using the first week or so for transition so that our children do not spend their holidays worrying about moving classes – we can do this at a calm and considered pace when we return in September. The educational phrase on everyone’s lips at the moment seems to be ‘recovery planning’! We have been looking at all manner of ways that we can support our children in perhaps ‘accelerating’ their academic learning from September, but before any of that our main priority will be their mental health and wellbeing and their preparedness for learning. We’ll keep you posted on how we’ll be balancing the need for focused academic ‘recovery’ with this readiniess. We acknowledge that our children will have all coped with these strange circumstances in different ways and we’ll be making sure that we keep a close eye on every single one of them and that our pastoral care and provision is what we all need it to be.*

…and after the guidance for opening in September came out yesterday, our message is still very much the same. It has given us much food for thought regarding what a ‘bubble’ will actually be come September, but there is quite a lot of room for maneuvering and there will be a huge degree of risk management and balancing risk against children’s needs. As expected, the guidance allows for schools to manage opening to every pupil, in every class, in every year group, based upon their own contexts and settings. What is clear though is that the non-negotiables of practicing good hygiene and social distancing measures wherever possible will remain a priority. We are having many conversations and looking at many options and we’ll be sure to keep you posted on our reasoning for any decisions we make for the Autumn term.

As we mentioned earlier, infection rates are improving and we’ll be doing all we can to set your minds at ease about your children returning to school and what we are doing to keep them safe.You may have heard in the media that school is again mandatory from September and that local authorities and schools have been told to issue fines to deter against poor attendance. As always, we’ll use our discretion and although we’ll be following these guidelines, we will, of course, expect you to talk to us about your concerns.

**NEXT YEAR’S TEACHERS**

Just to let parents know, if your child is **currently in Year 2, 3, 4 or 5**, we will be letting you and your child know who their teacher will be for the next academic year (although they’ll still be returning to their current class for the first few days). It is quite likely that this will be via a video message or some such means from their new teacher, so we’ll let you know when to expect that…it’ll be some time before the end of term.

**If your child is making the transition from Year 2 to Year 3**, we will be sending a separate letter next week, with lots of information on what to expect from the move to the ‘Juniors’, including information on uniform, packed lunches and dinners and other procedures that will help with the transition.

**For our current Reception and Year 1 children**, we’ve decided that we are going to wait until September before introducing them to their new teacher and new class mates. As you will be aware, during this summer term, we would normally manage a transition to introduce them to their new teacher and introduce them to their new class mates for the year ahead. As we cannot do that this year, we feel that this transition is best managed by us when they are in school. We do not want to confuse them when coming back to their current teacher in September and there are logistical considerations with the mixed classes. We feel that we can manage that transition better in September here at school and it will be very important for the wellbeing of the children. Please reassure your children that they will be coming back to their current classes for a few days before they move to their new Year 1 or Year 2 classes.

**AWARENESS, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

Just as an update…we are liaising with the local authority in setting up a working party across all Trafford schools to look how anti-racism and awarensss of equality and diversity might improve our communities and our curriculum. We’l be in touch about the part we’d like parents to play in this and appreciate your support.

**READING BOOKS AND RESOURCES AMNESTY!**

***We’ll leave this on from next week as we’d like to see any resources back in school please…***

As this very strange academic year draws to a close, we are beginning to sort resources ready for September. Ordinarily, we would collect in all reading books and reading records for the next teacher. However, due to the pandemic, and home learning, we have switched to online reading.

This has lead to many of our new reading scheme books that were sent home at the beginning of the pandemic, left at our children’s homes. ***As you remember, we made a significant investment in this reading scheme so it is really important to us that they all get returned.*** Therefore, we are asking for all reading books and reading records to be dropped into school. There will be a labelled box outside the main office, where you can drop them in at your earliest convenience before the end of term. You do not need to hand it to anyone or make contact, simply drop it in the box. These will then be marked off against each class teacher's list so that we can ensure that all books have been returned. If you are shielding, or do not feel confident coming to school, please email Mrs. Hall at s.hall@urmstonprimaryschool.com and she will make separate arrangements for it to be collected.

***Furthermore, to aid in home learning, there were numerous other resources (including whiteboards, pens and perhaps dictionaries) that we might have sent home originally in a pack. Again, we ask that these are returned to school at your earliest convenience.***

**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.

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

Best wishes,

*Mr Parker and Mr Doherty*