



15.06.20 – Information Update for Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now in a position where we would like to encourage all children not restricted by shielding to return to school on a part-time basis for the last month of term. This means that from the 22nd June, we would really like to see all children back if possible. We realise some of you may not yet feel comfortable with this but would encourage you to contact us to discuss your concerns. It's probably helpful to divide up the guidance into sections at this stage.

For parents of children with no underlying complications in the family

It is important for children to be able to return to education as soon as safely possible. We have risk assessed the situation at Dorin Park extensively and we are comfortable widening our offer. Of course, we can never eliminate risk entirely, but we've made substantial changes to how classes work and are staffed so we can keep children as safe as possible. Children have now been out of school for several months and it would be beneficial for them to have some time in school again before the summer. However, this remains a parental decision and we will not pressurise parents who feel uncomfortable returning their children before September. We do now though want to encourage you to consider it and talk to us about any concerns.

For parents/siblings who are in shielding

We recognise that some parents/siblings are shielding and continue to be at risk themselves. Your child is welcome to return but we will support your decision to keep them at home until September if you feel this is best for your family. Please let us know so we can continue to provide online learning for you.

For pupils who are shielding

We cannot give medical advice about shielding and you should consult your doctor about whether they now recommend a return to school. We will continue to provide online learning for shielding pupils. We are happy to welcome pupils back where medical advice says it is safe to do so.

For parents of children already back who would like more days

The current school risk assessment takes into account the R value, the 2 metre distancing rule and the fact that it is not yet safe to relax it, and the need to continue with increased hygiene procedures as well as a number of other conditions. We are not yet in a position to make a full time offer to our pupils for these reasons and we



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

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offer a very limited provision on Wednesdays so that the site can be deep-cleaned between pods. All our children are classed as vulnerable by the Department for Education and are entitled to an offer and therefore all have to be given access to return. It is not currently safe for us to run classes at full-time capacity numbers. For this reason, we cannot offer more days. This is unlikely to change before the end of term.

What about September?

The good news is that, unless there is a serious change in the R value or number of cases of Covid-19, we will be able to offer 5 days for all our pupils from September. We are having substantial work done over the summer holidays to facilitate this. We have reduced class sizes, are converting rooms and amending our curriculum so that our pupils will remain in secure pods for their safety from infection. We plan to continue this right through the autumn term so that they are as protected as possible from any chance there is a second wave. What is really important is that we get to a position where they can all return safely as soon as possible, so we've focused a lot of attention into making this happen. We recognise the unprecedented challenges this situation has brought for so many of our families and how worrying it is going into the summer holidays not knowing what September will bring. Many of you have children in mainstream schools who don't know if they will be able to return, so we felt it was important to set out our position as soon as possible to reduce anxieties. If the Government orders local school closures due to a localised outbreak, clearly we will need to comply, but our intention is to re-open to all fully in September and to use a tight pod arrangement to facilitate that. We know that with the work done over the summer, we can do so even if the distancing remains at 2m.

I'd like to say a personal thank you at this point to all the staff here who have approached wider opening with such a positive, can-do attitude. It's been great to see so many children back with us and happy to be seeing some of their friends and class staff again. Although some practices look different, it's still Dorin Park and I would like to assure you that despite noise in the media, children coming back to school are usually very happy to do so even if things are a bit different. A happy smile from someone pleased to see them goes a long way to dispelling some differences in the playground equipment!

We would like a return indicating your preferences please. Could I ask parents of children coming back from the 22nd to get this back to us by Wednesday 17th at 9 am so we can book transport? If it comes in after this, your child is still welcome to come back but we may not be able to get transport for another week.

Best wishes,

Jane Hughes