

Ravenswood School

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Headteacher
Mr. Mark Senior (BA Edu. NPQH)

Monday 6th July 2020

School Update

Dear Parents /Carers,

I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

As you would have seen in the press, the government have announced that they would like all pupils to return to school in September.

We have all longed for this day at Ravenswood and we cannot wait to welcome the pupils back into school.

From the latest guidance my understanding is:

- All students to return full time to school in September
- The only exception may be those with medical exemptions. Parents should seek doctors' advice if you are unsure if your child is ok to return to school
- All staff to return to work. Those clinically vulnerable, including pregnant women, should social distance and if not possible work from home.
- Bubbles or hubs should exist if possible within the school. However, it is more important to provide good provision and it is recognised that special schools are small so it will affect fewer young people if the whole school has to close as a result of infection.
- Risk assessments should be revisited and updated for return to full capacity.
- The focus of the curriculum should be the pre covid curriculum and catching up on lost learning. (There is a recognition that students' mental health may need to be supported but that that should be done in pastoral care rather than the class curriculum.)
- Full class resources can now be used (books etc) but those that can't be cleaned easily will need to be put away for 48 hours.
- Trips out and into the community can still occur but just not overnight. Work related learning, extracurricular activities and physical activities can still go on.
- PPE will still need to be used for medical and care use.
- Visitors, supply staff and therapists can now enter schools – interactions should be kept to a minimum and a record of attendance kept. However, again it is important that the child gets what they need so visitors can work across bubbles to deliver interventions etc.

With this in mind the school will look and feel different for the pupils and staff we need to ensure that all adhere to the following:



- Clean hands, thoroughly, more often than usual.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
- Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- Where necessary, wear appropriate PPE.

Other changes that we will need to make to keep everyone safe:

- Staggered lunches/ breaks
- Separate play zones for each department
- No assemblies
- Staff to collect pupils from buses
- Parents/carers who drop off/ collect pupils to wait in the primary playground off the public footpath for staff to collect pupils from them.

I understand that this will be a very anxious time for the pupils and staff so to enable a smooth transition we are going to invite the pupils back over two days.

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September will be Inset days for staff, no pupils in school.

Thursday 3rd September we will invite half of each class (65 pupils) into school for the day.

Friday 4th September we will invite the other half of each class (65 pupils) into school for the day.

Monday 7th September onwards, all pupils to return to school.

By staggering the start over two days, I feel this will give the pupils time to familiarise themselves with new routines and structures, let staff identify any pupils who need more support and enable staff to support each pupil more effectively back into school following an extended time off school.

You will be contacted over the next two weeks via telephone to let you know which day your child is expected to come to school. School will inform transport so they know who to collect on which day.

Can I thank each and every one of you for your support during the Covid pandemic. I look forward to speaking with you over the next year and continuing our relationships to ensure that we are doing the very best for your child and their future.

If I can help in any way please do not hesitate to contact me,

Take care,

Mark Senior

