



12th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Sunday, the Prime Minister gave his much-anticipated update in terms of the next phase of the lockdown policy.

Children in Years 7-9

From this address, **we believe** that the current lockdown learning arrangements will remain in place for years 7-9 until the end of the summer term, meaning it is likely that children in these year groups will not return to school until September at the earliest. We will continue to provide regular updates to learning via Show My Homework, issuing praise points, weekly awards and regular updates in our weekly blog. We thank you for your patience, support and dedication to your child's education. We are committed to providing the resources your child needs to learn effectively at home and welcome any requests for additional support. It is crucial that you let us know if your child is struggling and we will do our best to help in a way that will motivate and engage them.

Children in Year 10

The Prime Minister also gave an indication that the first year group which **may** return to have some 'face to face' learning in secondary schools will be children who have examinations next year. The only year group this would affect in Sandhill View is Year 10.

We do not have a date for this possible return for Year 10 students as it is dependent on scientific review and agreement from Teaching Unions.

We do know that **if** it happens:

- Students will not follow their usual timetable.
- The day will be shorter than the usual school day, allowing for staggered arrival, departure, break and lunch times.
- Arrangements will be made for strict social distancing to take place.
- We will introduce non-negotiable 'social safety rules'
- Desks will be set 2 metres apart and facing the same direction
- Class sizes will be halved with an absolute maximum of 15 (more realistically 8-10)
- Students will not move around the building from lesson to lesson, but they will remain in one classroom for each learning 'session'
- Once students have left their classroom, it will be 'enhanced cleaned' before its next use.
- Official DfE guidance states that PPE will not be necessary: we anticipate that it would be desirable and safe to use for secondary age children. We are working on manufacturing machine washable face masks for use in school, so as not to draw on reserves that would otherwise be needed in the health service.

Children of Key Workers:

As was previously the case, the children of 'Key Workers' are able to attend school.

The DfE has confirmed there will be no penalty for families who do not send their children back to school, but that families "will be strongly encouraged to take up these places – unless the child or a family member is shielding or the child is particularly vulnerable due to an underlying condition".

It is likely that the experience of being in school will feel very different to the way it was in the past. We must all accept that we must prepare to learn a new normal way of living, where safety of our whole community is at the forefront of our consciousness at all times.

We will continue to give you updates as and when we receive them. In the meantime, we thank you as always, for your support and cooperation in ensuring a safe and pleasant home learning environment for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Maw
Headteacher

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