

Covid-19 Update No 7: Tuesday 25th August 2020

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

As you aware we are hoping that all our pupils will be able to return to school in September. The arrangements we made during the summer term were very effective and we have adapted these to meet the needs of larger numbers of pupils and staff joining us in school. In order to make the return to school as safe as possible and to ensure a reasonable level of social distancing we have made some changes to the way we use our accommodation and organise our schools.

Please find the details below:

Pupil numbers:

Our aim is for all pupils to be able to attend school. A few with very complex medical needs may need to start back later and we will be talking to those families separately.

Each school has been risk assessed and we have our arrangements for “bubbles” or as we call them “PODS” to operate as before although they will include larger numbers of pupils/staff (see below).

Organisation:

In order to establish social distancing as best as we can (bearing in mind the nature of our pupils’ needs) we are continuing to organise the schools into self-contained PODS which operate independently within each school. Each school has either 2, 3 or 4 PODS depending on size and accommodation. Each Head of School will write to you separately about the specific arrangements for the schools.

PODS

Each POD has been established in an area of the school that can be kept separate from the other PODS.

Each POD has a maximum number of pupils allocated to it depending on the room sizes and layout.

Each POD has its own staff and pupil toilet arrangements. Each has access to the outdoors.

Breaks and lunchtimes will continue to be organised so that children and staff have these with their POD team. Lunch in most cases will be in the dining hall and social distancing can be maintained either through separate sittings or the arrangement of tables and chairs

Each POD has an identified entrance for pupils and staff to enter and leave the school, maintaining social distancing

Some children who tend to put resources in their mouths will have a box/drawer for their own personal resources which will not be shared and will be cleaned regularly. Only washable resources will be used

Only a very few staff will travel between PODS eg IT technician, SLT and they have their own protocols to follow

An all day cleaner will be on site to help staff make sure that shared spaces such as the soft play spaces are cleaned thoroughly after use

Practical arrangements

Your child **does** now need to wear uniform. It needs to feel like school and this is part of their routine.

Transport is working with us to ensure that children from the same PODS are kept together where more than one child is in the vehicle. In Portsmouth schools we have had to adjust our timings temporarily to facilitate this.

If your child becomes unwell at school they will be taken to a safe space by a familiar member of staff and we will ask you to collect them immediately. If they show signs of coronavirus you will need to arrange for them to have a test and follow the most recent guidance.

School and Home Learning:

If for any reason your child is not able to access school and/or is self-isolating, teachers will be planning in just the way they are now for pupils in school and at home and will be in touch regularly.

We hope that this overview of the arrangements is helpful and reassuring. Each school will provide you with more detailed information that is specific to their setting. Our main aim as ever is to keep your children safe and support them and yourselves at this very challenging time.

If you have any questions please do contact the admin team by telephone or email and they will pass them onto the appropriate member of staff to respond as quickly as possible. Keep well and stay safe and I wish you all well for the future,

Alison