

24 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have delayed sending out this letter until now to ensure that we have the most updated information regarding the reopening of schools in September.

As expected, this makes it clear that the government expects all pupils to be back in school full time from the start of next term and to resume our normal school/college day.

This decision has been made on the basis of;

- The prevalence of coronavirus decreasing
- The new NHS test and trace system being in place
- Time out of school being detrimental to your young person's development.
- The low risk to your young person of becoming severely ill from coronavirus.

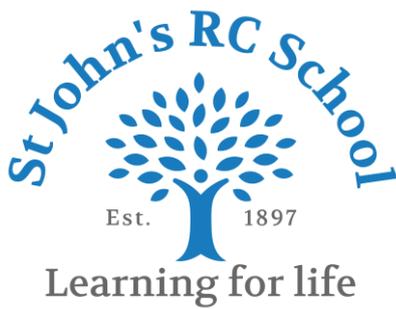
The main headlines from the guidance are;

- Full return of all year groups from the start of next term.
- Control measures will be based on prevention and response to infections.
- Prevention measures include rigorous hygiene, enhanced cleaning, minimising contact between children in different classes and maximising distance between individual students and staff.

Attendance will be mandatory in September as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

When your young person returns to school we will have the following protective measures in place.

- Students will be in class and key stage bubbles. These bubbles will be largely classroom based and the students will move around the school and take break and lunch times in their bubbles.
- We have no control over local authority transport and the decisions they make about safely transporting students back to school and college in September, but we will be staggering the students coming off the buses to eliminate too many students trying to enter the school through the gate at one time. Parents/carers who bring their students to school will also be asked to stagger the entry through the pedestrian gate.
- Pupils will be encouraged to ensure good personal hygiene and regular hand washing and minimising their movement around the school. We will also have one-way system in place on the stairwells and in the sixth areas.
- If a pupil or staff member develops symptoms of COVID at school, we will send them home and ask them to take a COVID-19 test as soon as possible. We will follow the test and trace guidance and ask them to remain at home until they get a negative result.
- If a case is confirmed we will seek advice from public health on what action to take, at present the guidance is for that person to self-isolate for 14 days.



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We are not planning any off-site trips until at least half term other than those students who attend Lambourne farm, which is very local to the school.

We will be providing a packed lunch for the first three weeks back at school for those students who would ordinarily have school dinners, this is due to unforeseen delay in the completion of the new school kitchen.

I am very aware that lockdown has been a very difficult time for everyone including our young people and we will endeavour to support our students in their return to school/college.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if your young person needs some specific support our concern is always with their wellbeing.

If you have travelled abroad during the holiday period please consult the government guide lines and contact us accordingly.

Gov.uk guidance and support, coronavirus (COVID-19) travel corridor.

Thank you once again for all of your support, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

I look forward to seeing everyone again on Thursday 3rd September

Kind regards
Wendy Killilea
Head of St John's School and College