Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you have all enjoyed the Summer break and that some of you have managed some time away. In July I wrote to you all before we broke up outlining our plans for reopening. I have included these again as we are welcoming several new pupils to our school.

We are all looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Tuesday September 8th with the exception of some of our new starters who will be gradually feeding into school over the next couple of weeks.

The government expectation continues to be that all pupils will return to school next week unless there is specific advice relating to a serious medical issue. If any parent has any questions around this advice or any concerns with the return to school the senior leadership team will be in school on Monday and will be available to discuss issues and concerns. Likewise Jayne Duke our Home School Liaison Officer will also be available. We have organised the school so that children can be taught safely across the school site. We have split the school into three ‘bubbles’. Lower School which will be all the classes in the main classroom block-Butterflies, Bees, Puffins, Foxes, Owls, Rabbits and Hedgehogs, Upper School which will be Seniors 1-4 and the 6th Form who will be their own ‘bubble’ on the Driffield School site. Pupils will not move between the ‘bubbles’, some staff will move across ‘bubbles’ but strict protocols will be observed. The idea of the bubbles is to minimise contact between different pupils and staff. It is very important that all parents work with us to reduce the risk of infection in school. Please do not send your child into school if they have any of the following symptoms:

* Temperature
* Persistent cough
* Loss of smell/taste

Any child or student arriving in school with any of the above will be immediately isolated until they can be collected from the premises.

Further guidance on what to do if your child or anyone in your family presents with symptoms can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementingprotective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID19 in the school the pupils and staff in that ‘bubble’ will need to stay at home for 14 days. If the need arises we will also be sharing relevant information with the NHS Track and Trace contact system. Further information about this can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace>

Unfortunately, as it stands at the moment we will not be able to welcome parents into school for the Star of the Week assembly as visitors to school have to be kept to an absolute minimum. However, as soon as we can we hope to see you all back in school.

We are not expecting any of our pupils to wear masks in school as we feel the logistics around the safe use of masks will be hard for our pupils to maintain. Masks and visors will be available for staff use when working in close proximity to each other, for example carrying out intimate care procedures.

Can I also remind all parents that in line with all other maintained schools we are **‘a nut free school’.** A new pupil is starting with us who has a severe nut allergy. This applies not only to our school kitchen which is always ‘nut free’ but to packed lunches and snacks brought in from home. Due to the importance of maintaining the safety of this pupil, staff will be checking all packed lunches and any items containing nuts will be removed.

Enjoy the final weekend of the holidays and we look forward to seeing our pupils on Tuesday.

Gail Lawton

Headteacher