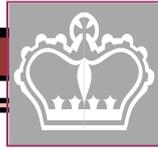


QUEEN ELIZABETH II PRIMARY (Pomeroy) SCHOOL



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8th July 2020

Dear Parents

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer break. As mentioned in my letter dated 2nd July 2020, changes to our school restart plans were always a possibility.

Changes to current guidance, only announced on Thursday by the Department of Education state the following:

“Strict social distancing requirements between all pupils will be relaxed from a specific distance to the best spacing that can be achieved but will remain in place between adults and, as far as it is practicable between adults and pupils. Schools should continue to implement as much social distancing as is practical and where physical capacity and curriculum delivery permit. On the return to school, the overriding provision will be a full class return with all appropriate and practical protections put in place.”

And that,

“Work is ongoing to revise the guidance and this will be issued to schools next week once the necessary revisions have been completed and the Chief Medical Officer and Public Health Agency (PHA) have considered the final version.”

Therefore, as full guidance has not been issued to schools we are unable to provide complete clarity at this stage as what a return to school will be like. Staff are due to return on Monday 17th August. However, they have agreed to meet on Thursday 13th August to further discuss our plans. We hope the information from the Department of Education will be with us at that stage.

Following completion of risk assessments, I hope to be able to provide clarity on the following:

- School meal service/process of paying for school meals
- Start and finish of school day
- Movement of items from home to school i.e. school bags/lunchboxes/homework
- How protective bubbles will operate in our school
- Implications for school if a child/staff member tests positive for Covid 19
- Changes to school behaviour policy in relation to Covid 19
- What will happen if a child becomes symptomatic while at school
- School holiday list for 2020/2021

Currently, I can provide clarity on the following

- P7 pupils will begin on Monday 24th August on a full time basis. The school meal service will not resume until Tuesday 1st September. Therefore, P7 pupils will require a packed lunch for the first week of school
- School uniform arrangements for 2020/2021 are as follows

All pupils should wear:

- School jumper
- School polo shirt
- Black/navy unmarked jogging bottoms (not leggings)
- Trainers (only laces if your child can tie them – school shoes will not be required)
- Coat with hood (for good ventilation in classrooms, windows will be open more regularly. Where opportunities arise, pupils will be involved in outdoor learning)

- Guidance from Department of Education, announced yesterday in relation to transport is as follows,

“While parents and children should be encouraged to use other means of travelling to school for example, walking or cycling where it is safe and reasonable to do so, we recognise that for many children the home to school transport network may be the only available option. There will therefore be no requirement for children to follow public transport guidance for social distancing between pupils on dedicated home to school transport vehicles. However, where it is possible to socially distance pupils should do so. A series of mitigating actions for transport on these vehicles will be enacted and details will be provided in the revised guidance. Pupils using public transport services will continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines for the general public.”

- I will be making contact on Monday 17th August to arrange SEN review meetings which will take place on Wednesday 26th August
- P1 Parents induction night will take place on Thursday 20th August at 7pm in the school Assembly Hall
- There will be no school for any pupil on Monday 31st August

Please note consideration is being given to using the week beginning Tuesday 1st September to allow for a staggered return of P1-P6 pupils, with full return of all pupils on Monday 7th September. This will allow us to settle pupils back into school after such a long period off. Further information on this will follow.

I appreciate this is a very uncertain and difficult time for families. However, our priority remains to ensure the health and well being of all pupils and staff. We are looking forward to having our pupils back to school in a safe manner and in a way that is best suited to our pupils.

Kind regards

Mrs Robinson