

19.05.2020

Dear parents/carers,

I sincerely hope you and your family are well.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your contribution to the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Being at home with your child(ren), supporting their learning, alongside completing your own work, is challenging enough and we commend you in your efforts; your commitment has helped to reduce the spread of the virus and continues to help to save lives. Your ongoing messages of support have been warmly appreciated by the team at Kingsbury Academy; they have meant a lot to us all. We will continue to frequently call you to ensure we are doing all we can to support you through these difficult times. Please continue to monitor our website and twitter feed for frequent updates.

I would also like to thank you for your patience whilst we have awaited further information on the reopening of schools. The government has now published this information and we will be making some changes over the coming days and weeks.

Following half-term, Kingsbury Academy will continue with our current provision. We will continue to monitor individual circumstances and level of need and amend our capacity accordingly. Following Government guidance, we are planning to gradually increase the number of children who may be able to access school. We are reliant on many factors when determining capacity including school transport, staffing levels and guidance from Coventry City Council/Department for Education.

The government guidance for mainstream schools prioritises primary children in specific year groups (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) however, for Special Schools, the Department for Education has advised that Special Schools should be working towards a phased return of an increased number of children without a specific focus on year groups; we will therefore, continue to focus on vulnerable children and those of keyworkers.

We continue to carry out dynamic risk assessments following recent scientific advice, reviewing our school environment and staffing levels. All of our staff are provided with frequent guidance and PPE if they choose to use it.

Below are some examples of the precautions we are currently implementing:

- Continue to minimise the number of adults that are in contact with children during the school day

- Continue to keep class sizes to a minimum
- Social interaction between groups will be minimised, where possible
- Staggering of break and lunch times in small groups
- Increased cleaning of learning spaces, touchpoints, and communal areas
- Ensure any children or staff exhibiting potential coronavirus symptoms stay at home and follow isolation guidelines
- Actively promoting frequent handwashing and distribution of hand sanitiser

We continue to do everything we can to support you and your children; it is testament to the staff that we were able to stay open over the Easter holidays to help our families in need of support. We monitor and follow frequently evolving guidance and do our utmost to reduce the risk however, we are unable to fully eliminate any possible risk. As you know, many of our children can not socially distance.

We want to make it very clear that in these unprecedented times there is no demand on you to send your children back to school and as parents you are best placed to make these decisions for your family. We will keep you updated with our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision and as always, please call us to discuss any specific queries. We have spoken to many parents via various mediums including Microsoft Teams and Zoom.

We will continue to provide home learning to our children not accessing support on site; it is vital that you inform us of when you require further work or indeed, more/less challenging work. Please ensure you continue to inform us of any free-school meals (FSM) voucher difficulties you may be facing. If you are not eligible for FSM, there are still schemes that we can help you access if you are struggling. Further information for parents and carers can be found in the attached government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

We will be contacting parents of Year 6 children to discuss plans for transition. We continue to engage with our secondary school colleagues to discuss possibilities during these challenging circumstances.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will do our best to help. We know that circumstances change and are always happy to listen.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support at this time.

Best wishes,

Craig