



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear parents & carers,

I hope you are all well and staying safe. It is nearly 12 weeks since we saw the vast majority of you, which is far too long. I hope you have all coped ok with the pressures of home schooling, lockdown and your own employment. From my parental perspective, it has certainly been a challenge in my household and we are all looking forward to schools and nurseries reopening fully, when it is safe to do so.

You may have seen yesterday that the government have now admitted that this will not be before September. I am sure this is a disappointment to many of you, but schools cannot accommodate all pupils back in classes whilst the social distancing measures remain as they do. The government have told schools that we can welcome additional pupils from Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 if we have the space and staffing to do so. We do not have enough space to do this at Harriers, but we would love to welcome the children back in some capacity, so we are exploring the possibility of doing this in a safe format... even if it was for a day to meet their new teacher. This would pose many logistical challenges in the current climate so we will inform you in due course if we come up with a feasible plan that will ensure the safety of all pupils and staff.

We are now into our second week of our wider reopening with Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. It has been successful due to our planning, the staff's commitment and the support of our pupils and parents. Thank you to all of you who have attended site for being patient with us and for following all of our procedures. It has been lovely to welcome you on a daily basis. I would also like to thank our wonderful pupils for their responsible attitude towards returning to school, their respect of our new procedures and towards each other, and for their impeccable behaviour and manners in school. It has been an absolute delight to have pupils in our classrooms again and their excited faces make it all worthwhile!

Can I remind all parents/carers that we have requested that you do not use Harriers View at present due to the potential health and safety risk posed to pedestrians leaving the site through our main gates.

We have offered key worker and vulnerable children places throughout lockdown, including during Easter holidays, half term and bank holidays. Harriers has only been closed for three days since the middle of February. We continue to offer this provision and numbers are slowly growing as more parents/carers return to work. Please ensure you contact the office by 2pm Thursday of the week before to request any key worker care.

We have had around 50% attendance of those pupils who have been eligible to return, meaning our pods have been a manageable number, ranging from 5 to 9 pupils. We absolutely respect the decision by any parent/carer to not send their child into school at this time. As mentioned previously, we have had to curtail our online provision to these year groups, as the teachers are all teaching full time. We are, however still posting resources and planning online, which we hope you are able to adapt to your needs. There are also fantastic resources from the Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize that you can access. We have some teachers who are in vulnerable categories and cannot therefore be in school, but they are still working very hard from home to provide online learning and support for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. Understandably our capacity for online interaction and tailoring of learning to individuals who are at home is highly reduced now that we have more pupils in school. Please contact your class teacher if you have any questions about online learning.



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While in school, pupils and staff are staying in pods of up to 12 people. This removes contact with people in other pods and significantly reduces any spread of coronavirus within the school population. All the efforts that we are making in school to keep pupils and staff safe are rendered useless if the government's guidelines are not followed outside of school. If your child is attending school, we must insist that they have no contact with pupils from other pods outside of school. Please may we also ask that you do not share rides. We have no jurisdiction or way of enforcing this, but we ask that you do it for the safety of everyone in school.

We have an INSET day, as planned, on Friday 26th June. School will be closed on this day so all staff can receive essential training on supporting pupil wellbeing and learning when they return to school after such an extended period. We ask that key workers make every effort to arrange alternative child care; please contact the school as a last resort.

Thank you once more to all of our community for being genuine heroes:

- To our pupils: thank you for your hard work at home and school and for following the lockdown guidance for so long.
- To our staff: thank you for your commitment to our pupils' education and wellbeing; every single member of staff has done what has been asked of them throughout lockdown without a grumble, and with creativity and resilience.
- To our parents, carers and families: thank you for your words of encouragement and support during this difficult time and for picking up the educational baton at home.

This won't be forever and we look forward to when we can welcome you all back to Harriers.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Pearson
Executive Principal