



# Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Alex Pearson – Executive Principal

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Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure you are all eager to hear our plans for school in September. The truth is that we hear the government's guidance at the same time as everyone else via press releases. Over the past week there have been comments by cabinet ministers and leaked documents but we are expecting official guidance on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. We will then need time to consider the guidance and make our plans, so we expect to give you much of the information you want and need at some point next week.

Based on what we have been told, we are expecting the government to allow all year groups to return to primary schools in September. What we don't know is what the expectations will be for social distancing and mixing of classes/pods, and therefore we can make no concrete plans at this stage. It will be lovely to see all pupils back at Harriers once more, but we need to ensure we do it safely within government guidelines. I therefore believe we will have to maintain our staggered start times, we may need to make further changes to the school day and I foresee that we will be unable to offer wraparound care, at least initially. Please rest assured that we will share our plans with you at the earliest opportunity.

Many aspects of school life are different right now, and some of our usual end of year activities present logistical challenges. At this time of year we would normally be focussing on our pupils' transition into their new year group, or school! Many of our plans for Year 6 have had to be put on hold, but we promise to give them a proper send off when we are allowed. For all other year groups, we want to offer some of our usual transition. We have invited classes from Y2-5 into school so they get at least 1 day back with us before they return in September and they have had the chance to spend some time with their new class teacher... from a distance. We are aware that many pupils are still unable to attend and that you, as parents/carers, have not had the chance to meet your child's new teacher. Consequently, we are taking our Meet the Teacher sessions online! This week all the teachers are filming sessions to share with you, and they will hopefully be with you by the end of this week.

The staff will look very familiar to you, as we currently have no new members of staff joining our team. As previously mentioned, however, we are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Miss Butler, Mrs Sweeney, Miss Howard, Mr Tibbetts and Mrs Cashmore. We are delighted to announce that Mrs Ahmed and Mrs J Roberts are both expecting and will only be with us for a very limited time next year. This does mean that Flamingos in Year 5 will have Mrs Pamplin exclusively as their class teacher.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding our return in September, we have decided to move one of our INSET days to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. Pupils in Years 1 to 6 will now return on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Nursery and Reception parents/carers should refer to the guidance that they have been sent separately. I apologise for the late nature of this change but I hope you can understand that we have a huge amount to prepare and we want to ensure we are absolutely ready to welcome all of our pupils back to Harriers safely.

Finally, may I remind all parents/carers that we expect all pupils to be tested for Covid-19 if they display any symptoms. We really empathise that it is not a pleasant experience for the child, but for the peace of mind for all other pupils and staff in that pod it is imperative that we find out if the result is positive or negative. It also has huge knock on effects if there is no test result, because the school has to decide whether the whole pod should be sent home as we would do for a positive test result. So please do have your child tested if we request that you do so.



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Thank you once again for your support and flexibility over the past weeks and months. It is really starting to feel like there is light at the end of the tunnel and we cannot wait to have the whole of the Harriers family back together. Please keep an eye out for your child's meet the teacher videos and I will be in touch next week with our plans for September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Pearson', written in a cursive style.

Alex Pearson  
Executive Principal