



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term 2, we hope you had a lovely half term.

Obviously we are all returning to the news that we are about to enter a second lockdown, although this time we are to remain open as a school. We are delighted that we are staying open as we know from our pupils that they missed school whilst it was not available to many of them and we know that being in school is essential to their educational development and emotional wellbeing. It is only natural that staff, pupils and parents may have some anxieties about being in school during a lockdown, but hopefully we have demonstrated that we are following all guidance to the letter in order to stay safe.

As of yet, schools have not received any specific guidance regarding the national lockdown from this Thursday, although we are expecting it through soon. In essence, we believe it will not greatly change what we have been doing already because our procedures have been so stringent in school. As the term has gone on, however, we have constantly reviewed our practices in school and have tweaked them to ensure they are as safe as possible; such as using PPE in the canteen, ensuring classrooms are well ventilated and ensuring there is minimal staff movement between bubbles. We will continue to do this and will update our procedures in line with any new government guidance.

Hands, Face, Space

It is more important than ever that we continue to follow government guidance in and out of school. Failure to do so could result in whole bubbles being told to isolate. We would like to thank all of you who have followed our guidance when accessing the school site at drop off and pick up times. We have continued to review these procedures and would like to introduce or remind you of the following guidelines:

- Wear a mask when on the school site
- Only one adult per household to come onto site
- You will no longer be able to wait on the playground for siblings, you will have to vacate the site and walk back round – this is to ensure that social distancing can be maintained at all times
- Social distance at all times, but especially when on the school site and when waiting on Harriers View, and do not block the entrances for others

Ventilation

In accordance with government guidelines, we are making sure all classrooms and spaces are well ventilated. As we enter the winter months this does mean that classrooms and the building as a whole will be cooler. Please therefore ensure your child is dressed appropriately for this and are wearing additional layers if needed.

Attendance

The government have confirmed that attendance at school remains mandatory during the lockdown period. Pupils should only be kept off school to shield if informed to do so in writing by their doctor. Please continue to keep your child off school if you think they may have one of the key Covid-19 symptoms. This flow chart at the end of this letter will help you decide upon this.

Home Learning

If your child does have to isolate due to Covid-19 then work for home learning will be provided for them. Much of this will be sent via Seesaw and may utilise Purple Mash, so please ensure you know your logins for both of these platforms. Check inside your child's homework book or contact their class teacher if you do not have them.

We will continue with business as usual as much as possible, doing everything in our powers to keep your child safe and happy. We thank you all for your patience, understanding and flexibility during this challenging time for all of us. I'm sure you will join me in thanking the staff for the commitment and bravery for continuing to educate and care for your child and all our pupils during a national lockdown.

Please take care over the coming weeks and please speak to us if you have any questions or concerns that we can help you with.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Pearson
Executive Principal

