

16th July 2020

Dear Families,

Well, what a four months it has been! As we approach the end of the strangest school year ever, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on a few things.

Firstly can I thank all families from the bottom of my heart for your unwavering support and resilience in these difficult times. Many of you have had to deal with challenging and worrying situations over the previous months. However, you have supported your children to complete work at home, engaged with our staff on the phone and really helped us to work with you in difficult circumstances. I do not underestimate what a task this has been for you at times. What a great team we make together!

We have also had the privilege of caring for many children of our key worker parents. You have had some incredible pressures to deal with in our hospitals, care homes etc... I hope you will all get some down time over the summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for all their hard work at school and from home. Our school community makes me proud on a daily basis, and never more so than at the current time. Staff have chosen to go above and beyond in so many scenarios. Something I know many of you have commented on in recent weeks.

Now I need to just pick up on a few practical things:

- School will be closed for students from Friday 17th July. The provisional reopening schedule is as stated in the letter we sent out on Monday.
- Families in receipt of free school meals have received/will receive vouchers this week to cover the summer holiday.
- The teacher weekly calls will stop at the end of this week.
- There are some summer activities and homework set on SMHK or posted to year 6. These are generally optional. Year 6 please try to follow the reading schedule for Wonder and complete your journal. Year 10 please try to complete all the tasks set, they will not take up too much of your holiday!
- There will be some things happening on social media, so keep an eye out.
- To accommodate our extended school day, and allow revision classes for Year 11 at half term; we will now be running a two week October half term. It was originally 11 days. Students will finish school on Friday 16th October and return on Monday 2nd November.
- The government is due to review its current guidance to schools for September opening on the 11th August. We will digest this and then write out to you all with our final arrangements for our September re opening the week beginning 17th August.
- Please note this means that if government advice changes we may need to change our current plans.

I know the current circumstances, and our plans for September, put all of us under additional pressure around day-to-day arrangements. I do massively appreciate your support and cooperation around this. At this stage there may well be challenges and difficulties around public transport as we return. Many of these will run beyond our control.

We have staggered the starts and ends of the day significantly to try to help. However, wherever possible please find alternatives to public transport. If the journey is walkable, or bikeable, that will be the safest and easiest way.

As I said we will be in touch well before the start of term to confirm all arrangements including more detailed guidance on how the new school routines will work. I would like to wish you all a safe and peaceful summer. Thank you again for all you do to make our school community so special.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R England
Headteacher