



Verulam School

Excellence · Character · Respect

Head Teacher: **Paul Ramsey** BA (Hons)

Brampton Road

St Albans

Hertfordshire

AL1 4PR

21st August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to provide a further update on our plans for re-opening the school to all pupils in September.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to full time education and have been working with the government's guidance to ensure that we can do so safely.

As part of this process, we have completed the Risk Assessment provided by Hertfordshire County Council. This can be found on the school's website.

Mr Flack will be writing again to all parents and carers on Tuesday 1st September with a detailed reminder about school operations, behaviour and our expectations for each year group. He will also post a video on Show My Homework which we would like every parent and student to watch. He will address important issues such as travel and entry to school, social distancing and arrangements for lunch and sport.

The government's expectation is that all children should return to full time education in September, as this is vital for their education and wellbeing. At Verulam, we have grouped students into year group bubbles where possible, minimised contacts between year groups and reduced the number of pupils moving around the school. Classrooms have been arranged to ensure students face the front. Much of our emphasis in September will focus on ensuring robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning and sanitising. All staff will also focus on reminding students of the need to maintain a safe distance from adults.

The current guidance makes clear that face masks are not recommended in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.

The most important way to ensure the safety of both students and staff is to ensure that students and staff do not attend school if they develop symptoms of a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell.

If students or staff develop these symptoms at school, they will be separated from others and sent home.

I would ask all parents and carers to read and keep the attached information on suspected COVID-19 in a child.

As part of our return to school, I would ask that parents also observe the following rules:

- Please avoid congregating at school entrances/exits
- Please do not drop off/pick-up students on either Brampton or Jennings Road
- Parents may only enter the site by appointment.

I would ask all parents to check their contact details on My Child at School to ensure they are correct. Please make amendments by emailing admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk.

We will be reviewing our approach to parents' evenings, as these will not be possible in the traditional format. However, we will ensure that there is a virtual information evening / presentation for each year group during the first half-term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P A Ramsey', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr P A Ramsey

Headteacher