

23 September 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

### Re: Full Opening: Schools

First and foremost, I would like to say how much we have enjoyed welcoming our pupils back to school this term. It has been wonderful to see them back in their classrooms learning and enjoying spending time with each other and the staff. A special welcome to our Year 7 pupils who have joined us for the first time and who have already made a very encouraging impression of themselves and a positive impact within the school community.

As parents/carers will appreciate, the changes that all schools have needed to put into place to minimise coronavirus (COVID-19) risks have been extensive. On balance, our pupils have adapted very well to the many changes that have been made to their usual school routines; the majority have demonstrated a mature approach to taking care of their own and others' safety and well-being. However, as highlighted by the Prime Minister yesterday, the transmission of COVID-19 is increasing nationally and so it is important that we remain vigilant and ensure that we continue to take appropriate steps to reduce risks. Therefore, we need to ask for parents'/carers' ongoing support in reinforcing the key health and safety measures that our young people need to understand and put into practice each and every day.

**It remains essential that children do not attend school should they, or anyone in their household, develop COVID-19 symptoms** (a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell). Please follow the Government guidance on self-isolation and arrange to get a test. We are aware that some families have experienced difficulties in arranging a test; however, this remains the guidance which schools and families must follow, please.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The DfE has today published a letter for parents explaining COVID-19 symptoms; I hope this is useful.

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKDFE/2020/09/23/file\\_attachments/1553140/23rd%20September%20-%20PHE%20letter%20to%20parents%20and%20guardians.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKDFE/2020/09/23/file_attachments/1553140/23rd%20September%20-%20PHE%20letter%20to%20parents%20and%20guardians.pdf)

If you remain unsure whether your child has symptoms, please seek appropriate medical advice. Well done to the many pupils who ensure that they bring clean tissues and alcohol sanitiser gel with them to school each day, as well as making use of the alcohol sanitiser gel available in school. We know that **regular and thorough handwashing is essential** and would politely ask parents/carers to remind their children that alcohol sanitiser gel should be used *in addition to* washing their hands thoroughly using soap and water: they should clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating, please.

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While it is important that pupils arrive at school in good time for their lessons, if they arrive at the school gates too early this can compromise the 'staggered start' system and cause unhelpful queuing. It is important that 'year bubbles' do not mix and so **year groups are only allowed on site at their designated time**. We would be grateful, therefore, if you would assist your child to manage this expectation.

[https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/documents/Autumn\\_Term\\_Timetable\\_2020.pdf](https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/documents/Autumn_Term_Timetable_2020.pdf)

Over recent months we have been fortunate to have had mostly dry and fine weather, but inevitably this will change as we move into the Autumn. **Please ensure that your child has an appropriate coat/rainwear with them when they come to school**; the one-way system means that pupils may be outside for several minutes when travelling from one class to another and they will need to keep dry. 'Year bubbles' have designated indoor areas for 'wet breaks', but these are smaller communal areas than those in which the pupils are used to congregating outside. We would remind families that **pupils have the option of wearing a face covering in busy and communal areas in the school e.g. corridors and 'wet break' halls**.

Good conduct from pupils is always important and so is 'safe play'. (Regrettably, we are not able to allow pupils to play any contact or ball games during their break times at present.) Understandably, pupils find it more of a challenge to 'distance' from each other during break times than they do during lessons during which they are sitting at desks. However, this remains very important and so we would ask for your support in reminding them to **maintain as safe a distance from others as possible and not to make any physical contact** – this includes with their friends!

We have received a few enquiries as what would happen should there be a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in the school. Schools are required to contact a dedicated advice service introduced by Public Health England which advises schools of the steps to take based on a rapid risk assessment of the precise circumstances; they provide definitive advice on who should be sent home. The response should be proportionate to the circumstances and could involve a teaching group, 'year bubble' and/or others being required to self-isolate and complete remote learning from home. It is possible that the school would close to all pupils temporarily as a precautionary measure while such a risk assessment was being conducted.

Further information for parents is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we move forward. Despite the many changes and uncertainties that remain, please be assured that staff are working very hard to ensure that pupils make good progress in their learning at school.

Yours sincerely

Ms S F Spivey  
CEO, Headteacher