

# Stour Valley Community School

3 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been one of starting to plan for September with my senior leadership team. In this newsletter I will outline initial plans for when different year groups will return in September and outline the steps we are taking to ensure that we are prepared to fully open in September to all year groups, if the government advice at that time is still to do so.

Our starting point for planning this week has been Year 6 into 7 transition. If our calendar had been running as planned, Year 10 would be on their second week of Work Experience and we would have been preparing to welcome our new intake Year 7 students for three days of transition next week. We have not been able to run any of the usual transition activities. In order to provide appropriate transition support for our new Year 7 students, we are going to bring them in on the second planned staff training day in September and run the three days from Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. On the Wednesday the new Year 7 will be the only year group in school. On the Thursday and Friday the new Year 10 and Year 11 will be in school as well. We will use the extra staff available on those days to support the new Year 10 as they embark on their new GCSE courses and settle the Year 11 into the routine of their final year. Year 8 and 9 will return on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

The government guidance for fully opening schools in September arrived in my inbox yesterday and we have begun the process of updating our COVID-19 school risk assessment. Once we have drawn up our plans and produced the necessary documentation, the Local Governing Body and then the Trust Board will sign them off. We intend that these processes will conclude next week and that I will be in a position to communicate more detail in my weekly newsletter next Friday. We will also make the Risk Assessment document available to anyone who would like to see it.

Here is a link to the guidance, if you have not already seen it and would like to read it:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

In short, it is the government's intention for all pupils to be back to school in September.

This is an exercise in the balance of risk. We do not underestimate the scale of the challenge ahead of us. The government are asking school leaders to exercise discretion and good judgement to suit their context and in the best interests of their pupils, parents and communities.

I hope and trust that this email finds you all well. I will write next week with our updated plans to mitigate risk to allow your children to return to school in September.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher



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COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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