



Headteacher: Mr D. Williams  
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Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear parent / carer,

We are now in the last week of what has been an extraordinary school year! It has been an incredibly challenging time for all and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work and commitment over this 'virtual' term. It is a privilege to work with such a fantastic team of people, some of whom have faced their own difficult circumstances whilst dedicating themselves to ensuring that learning continued throughout. All staff who were able also agreed to run on-site provision for keyworker pupils throughout lockdown including holidays; once again I am very grateful to them for this.

I would also like to thank you for your support during this time. I am aware that you will also have had to work hard with your children during this period; none of us expected this lockdown to last so long and so I'm sure that many of you will have adopted 'creative' approaches to ensuring that your children have remained as focussed as possible on their studies. I also appreciate the supportive messages you have sent; they have meant a great deal.

Over the past week I have been immersed in preparing for full re-opening in September. I, like the rest of the staff, am very much looking forward to this; hopefully most of the children are too after such a long period of lockdown! We have completed a detailed Risk Assessment based on the government's advice and designed a comprehensive list of measures which will be in place from when we return in September. Both these documents are now available in the 'COVID-19' section of our website and you will also receive the list of measures (Autumn Plan) by email shortly. Please take the time to read this document carefully and also go through it with your child before September. In many ways the school will need to operate in a different way and this will be a big change for the pupils and staff; this will be the 'new normal' for some time. It is important that they are prepared for this.

We will, of course, be going through all the changes with the children as soon as they arrive next term and they will also have the opportunity to ask any questions if they are not sure about anything. However, despite all the operational changes, I am determined that we still maintain a focus on a high-quality learning experience for all and that actual lessons will run, for the most part, as usual. This will be particularly important as we launch into 'catch up' work immediately on our return.

As we have been in lockdown, we have not been able to carry out the usual transition plan and induction of our new year 7 pupils. For this reason, **our usual start date next term (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September) will be for Year 7 and Year 10 pupils ONLY. All other year groups (Years 8, 9 and 11) will then join them on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September when we will carry out the full induction for all pupils**, based on the new post-lockdown guidelines. We envisage the induction taking some time during the morning on these days, as well as the usual beginning of term arrangements and supporting the vast majority of pupils back into the school environment. Nevertheless we hope to have normal lessons underway as quickly as possible on these days and the Monday (7<sup>th</sup>) will begin and run as a normal full school day.



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School transport guidelines have just been finalised by Herefordshire Council and are also being emailed out to you with this letter. Guidance is slightly different for those children who use public services (such as the Sargeants bus) and you may wish to get additional information from whichever public service provider you use. Although these services will be running as usual, parents are being asked to reduce pressure on public transport by seeking alternative transport arrangements if at all possible and face coverings are currently mandatory on these services. Please remember that there are 2 Sargeants buses which pupils use to get to school; if you choose to use this service then the earlier single-decker bus which goes to the village (and leaves slightly later after school) is much less crowded. As for the dedicated school bus routes which most pupils use; they will operate as usual but with certain social-distancing measures in place such as placing children on buses in year groups. Please read the attached 'School Transport September 2020' guidance for further detail.

Finally to the usual end of year announcements. Mrs Moore-Thomas is retiring at the end of this term having worked here as an LSA for nearly 6 years. Her calm and positive nature has always made her popular with the children; she has always been ready with a comforting smile whenever they have needed her. She has also set up and led the important ASDAN Life Skills course in recent years with a high degree of efficiency and great success. She will be missed by us all but now begins her well-deserved retirement. I wish her all the best and thank her for her work over the years. We will also be welcoming 3 new support staff in September. Mr Gorman and Miss Osborne will be joining our team of LSAs and Mr Andrews will be training with us as part of our ICT Support team. I look forward to working with them in the new academic year.

I would now like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer. If there are any further updates or changes as new guidance comes through we will email you and put them on our website as usual. Thank you all once again and I look forward to seeing the pupils again in September. Take care everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams