



Uffculme Primary School

Ashley Road, Uffculme, Devon. EX15 3AY Tel: 01884 840282
admin@primary.uffculmeschool.net / primary.uffculmeschool.net

Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As most of you will be aware from the media, the Department for Education has now published its guidance to schools on its plans for pupils from September 2020. The intention is that every pupil, in every year group, should return to school after the summer break. We are really keen to make this happen as we know that whilst pupils (and their parents) have worked hard from home, it is no replacement for the face-to-face teaching we can offer in school. In addition to this we also recognise the immense importance to our children's wellbeing, of them being amongst their friends and part of our school community again with all the opportunities that it offers.

Obviously as the school re-starts there will have to be changes from our 'normal' way of operating. The coronavirus is still at large in the community and nowhere is immune to its effects, so as the school gets back into action there will have to be multiple layers of controls and measures in place to minimise the risks to pupils and staff as much as is possible. And whilst we will never be able to guarantee a completely risk-free environment (indeed no school, work place or institution can ever do this), I am sure that by the start of next term we will have all the appropriate systems in place so that you can send your children into school with a real sense of confidence. We will be building on the practice that has already been successfully in place since June 2020 with our partial opening to EYFS, our Year 6 and the key worker children.

The guidance that has been produced by the government is quite complex and wide-ranging and we will now be planning for how we will implement this on our site for all of our children. There are some real challenges, but they are not insurmountable and I hope that over the coming weeks we will be able to share our plans with you, so you get a sense of what we are doing in preparation for the wider opening in September.

The reason for writing today therefore, is not to provide detail of the plans, but rather to confirm that the school will be open to all children from Monday 7th September and to highlight one or two things in readiness for September. The first relates to attendance. Over the past few months, the government has rightly placed a lot of emphasis on parental choice – allowing parents to determine whether they wish their children to take up the opportunity of returning to school. From September it is clear that all pupils should be in school unless there are clear medical reasons relating to shielding.

Secondly, in September, all pupils will be expected to attend in the appropriate uniform with safe sensible black shoes and acceptable hair styles for school. Please have a look on our website for further guidance in the section on parents then within our Uniform Policy.

Finally, I know that some of you may be making plans for holidays abroad now some of the restrictions around foreign travel are easing. As you will be aware in some cases there are two-week quarantine periods for people returning back to the UK, and whilst I would hope that your plans won't prevent your child starting back at school with their peers, if you think there is a possibility of this occurring (as your return is within two weeks of the start of the term), please could I ask that you get in touch and discuss the matter with us.

I know that many of you may have many questions that you would like answered, however I would ask for your patience whilst we work through all the planning. Once I am in a position to share more detail with you I will be back in touch, and be assured that you will get details of all of the arrangements for next term in plenty of time, but that this might not be before the end of this term given there are only two weeks left.

Please can I offer my thanks to all of you for the support that you have given to your children over these unprecedented times, in how you have adapted to the challenges of home learning, for keeping in contact with us but also in how you have supported the school particularly over some of the difficult decisions that we have also had to make. We are very much welcoming a return, hopefully to some normality, and seeing all of the children in September.

Have a good summer everyone!

Best wishes,

Jo Dentith

Headteacher