



2nd September 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are so very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to school tomorrow. I am sure most people in our school community are feeling a mixture of trepidation and excitement.

A huge amount of thought, time and effort has gone into getting to this point. We have done our very best to make school as safe as possible whilst also providing the best possible education that we can to all students. Inevitably this has involved some creative solutions, but also some compromises. The next few days and weeks will be a learning curve for us all. Your support, encouragement and feedback will be greatly appreciated. Despite all of our hard work, we fully anticipate having to make- adjustments as we go along.

Protective Measures Plan:

It is essential that every member of our school community follows our Protective Measures Plan, details of which are available on our website: <https://aldermanwhite.school/back-to-school>

Attendance at School:

It is absolutely critical that students do not attend school if any of the following apply:

- *They have tested positive for COVID-19 and symptoms started in the last 10 days or are ongoing*
- *They have any of the suspected symptoms or more than one of the possible symptoms of COVID-19 and have not received a negative test result after the symptoms started*
- *Someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms (and has not received a negative test result)*
- *They have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days*
- *They have been asked to self-isolate by the Track and Trace service*
- *They have returned from abroad within the last 14 days and are required to quarantine*
- *There is any other reason to suspect they may have COVID-19 and they have not yet received a negative test result*

Suspected symptoms identified in government and NHS guidance are:

- *high temperature*
- *new, continuous cough*
- *loss or change to your sense of smell or taste*

Possible symptoms identified by the World Health Organisation include:

- *(unusual) tiredness*
- *(unusual) aches and pains*
- *sore throat*
- *diarrhoea*
- *conjunctivitis*
- *headache*
- *an (unexplained) rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes*

Please do not send your child to school if they have any of the suspected symptoms or more than one of the possible symptoms. If your child has any suspected symptom they must self-isolate and have a COVID-19 test as soon as possible. They must not return to school until they feel better and have either had a negative test result or 10 days has passed since they developed the symptoms. If your child has more than one possible symptom they must not attend school until they have recovered. We request that they have a COVID-19 test if possible.

We will not follow our usual attendance processes where absences have occurred for the reasons given above. Where staff and students are well enough to work from home, staff will teach lessons remotely from home, and students will be able to access learning remotely via google classrooms.

Uniform and Equipment:

Please ensure that students wear the correct uniform and bring the required equipment listed on our website. Please note that we are unable to loan frequent use equipment in lessons and a failure to bring the necessary equipment will be recorded as a behaviour issue.

A Community of Opportunity for All:

I know that many families within our school community have endured considerable hardship over the past 6 months. We have tried to maintain our strong sense of community, and provide as much support as possible. As we return to school, it has never been more the case that we need to depend on and trust one another. One of our parents recently wrote to me describing their experience of shielding their child and how they feel about the start of term, and gave me permission to share this with you:

"After nearly 14 weeks of not being able to go out, our child was allowed to come out for a walk. Shielding was paused on 1st August but we were told to continue to be careful and avoid public places if possible and stick to the strict social distancing rules. Those who had to shield have not had the gradual relaxation of lockdown rules that others had. It feels like we have gone from our safe, protective bubble to suddenly being exposed to everything. One month after shielding has been paused, and our child will be returning to school where we have to rely on others to help keep them safe. The school have been extremely supportive but ultimately, we rely on the whole school community to keep everyone as safe as possible by following the guidelines. As the parents of a vulnerable child this is scary. Our child does not want to be seen or feel different to his peers. One of our biggest fears is that parents may send their children into school when they are displaying symptoms of the virus. Next week will be an anxious one for many a parent. We will be feeling that anxiety along with everyone else but with the added knowledge that our child could be at greater risk if

they were exposed to the virus, however we are hopeful that the sensible actions of others within the school community will reduce that risk."

I am confident that we can all work together over the coming months to make school a safe, happy and productive place for everyone in our school community, by following all of our protective measures and other school expectations. This will enable us to keep school fully open, and support those students remotely who are unable to attend for a temporary period.

First Day of Term: **Thursday 3rd September**

Just a reminder that students need to arrive ready for a prompt start at the following times:

Year 7: 9am

Year 8: 10.20am

Year 9: 11.25am

Year 10: 11.00am

Year 11: 11.50am

The back gate will be open for 10 minutes prior to each of these times for any students wishing to arrive from this route, and the bike compound will be open.

The school day will end for **Year 7 at 2.55pm, Year 8 and 9 at 3pm** and **Year 10 -11 at 3.15pm**.

From **Friday 4th September** we will operate our normal school day. Year 7 – 9 students should arrive for tutor time at 9.00am and Year 10 & 11 at 9.15am.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Mellors', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Headteacher