



17<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents,

## **Return to School**

I hope you are all enjoying the summer break and have had the opportunity to relax and enjoy valuable family time. We are very much looking forward to the start of the new school year and welcoming our Foresters back to school on Monday, 6th September. I will be writing to you in more detail before the start of the new term, however, this letter is to briefly outline the key steps that are in place to prepare for the new school year.

## **School Life**

From the start of term we will be returning to normal offer at school, with regard to provision, organisation and timings. There will no longer be a requirement for our pupils to work in bubbles and communal lunches and collective assemblies will once again be part of the Forest experience for all our children.

We will be returning to;

- Our usual school timings for drop off (8.40 a.m) and pick up (3:10p.m. for Lower School and 3:45p.m. for Upper School).
- Full school wraparound care which will start at 7:30a.m. and end at 6:00p.m.
- Extra-curricular activities where pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a full range of clubs, practices and peripatetic music lessons.
- Performances and rehearsals.
- Sporting fixtures against other schools and organisations (including swimming).
- The full cycle of trips.
- Parents' Association events.

Further details of these will be provided in due course so that families can plan for the term.

## **Risk Assessment and COVID Testing**

The school is still very mindful of the need to return safely and we have continued to monitor the latest UK Government guidance as we move into Step 4, and past the key date of the 16th August 2021. We will continue to emphasise the importance of good hand hygiene and ventilation in classrooms, as well as asking pupils, parents and staff to exercise good judgement in their behaviour. While face masks are no longer mandatory, parents, visitors and staff who wish to wear a face covering may of course continue to do so.



## Pupil Guidelines

In the event a child presents with COVID symptoms they should **remain at home pending a PCR result**; in the event of a positive test the individual will need to continue to quarantine in line with PHE guidance. There will be no expectation for other children or adults to isolate unless they are part of the same household, and the school will not be sending close contacts home. There is still the possibility that PHE will identify close contacts and will contact you separately. We request that you advise the school if your child is undertaking a PCR as a consequence of this. Where children are absent from school as a consequence of COVID directives the school will make provision for your children to engage with education remotely via our Google Classroom platform.

## Staff and Visitor Guidelines

Staff who have been working on site during the holiday period have been completing lateral flow testing twice a week and teaching staff will be conducting tests in the week before their return to School. All visitors to the school are requested to take a Lateral Flow Test prior to attending the site. Parents who have arranged a meeting with staff in school, or who are entering the school building for other reasons are also requested to provide evidence of a lateral flow test in advance. Parents or responsible adults who are dropping off outside school buildings do not need to test.

The School has also developed an Outbreak Response plan as recommended by the Government and will continue to work closely with Public Health England in managing any identified cases.

## Moving Forwards

Whilst life at Forest, and in all schools, has been very different over the last 18 months, we are looking forward to the future with optimism and good hope. As these steps allow us to be more flexible with the daily organisation of the school, we also remain incredibly aware of how effective our previous arrangements were, resulting in limited pupils and staff isolating. As a school we will continue to be cautious yet creative in allowing all aspects of Forest life to fully restart.

Further details about arrangements will be circulated to parents ahead of the start of term when I look forward to sharing our plans for the new academic year with the Forest community.

In the meantime, my colleagues and I hope you all enjoy the remaining few weeks of the summer and look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Booth  
Headmaster