

03.07.20



Dear parents / carers

RE: Summer End of Term Arrangements / September Re-opening

As many of you will be aware, yesterday the government issued updated guidance on the re-opening of schools in September. The past few months have been challenging for all, and it was great to hear the news that from September, we will be able to welcome all year groups back to full time education.

The guidance lays out necessary measures that schools will need to take in order to be ready for the September start and to ensure that we are welcoming all children back to the safest environment possible. Already we have begun plans, and over the next few weeks, I will be working with staff to complete training and to make the necessary physical changes within school to ensure a smooth September start. Details of these plans will be shared with parents ahead of the summer break.

I also need to inform parents that on **Monday 20th July** and **Tuesday 21st July**, school will be closed to all pupils to support in the necessary preparations and staff training. The Local Authority have issued a statement in support of schools delaying opening in September to allow schools preparation time. We feel that any delay in September would be wrong and that it is better to make the preparations ahead of the summer break, especially as we are already working at a reduced offer to children and families.

During these two days and Wednesday 22nd July, which was already an allocated staff training day, all staff will be receiving training on the use of a digital platform to enhance home learning. This training is essential for many reasons. Firstly, the digital platform will be used to enhance children's learning in September and be used to support 'catch up' for children due to the school closure since March. It is also important to acknowledge that whilst the government guidance is for a complete return to school for all pupils, they are very clear, that in the case of 'local lockdown' or in fact a positive COVID-19 case in school, that it may be necessary for children to be sent home from school for set periods. Having reviewed our current home learning offer, we are committed to further enhancing this to include some face to face / video teaching and the ability to provide pupils with feedback on work to enhance engagement and progress. The staff training being completed will not only enhance the in-school provision but will also provide us with a strategy ready to roll out if children are required to return to home learning.

On Monday 20th July, we will also be inviting our Year 6 children into school for a leaver's celebration afternoon. We are aware how important it is for children to achieve closure ahead of their transition to Secondary school and feel it is absolutely vital that they have a chance to come together, as a group, to celebrate their achievements at Broadoak before they begin their next adventure. Further details regarding arrangements will be sent out early next week.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place, as shared in last week's Transition Newsletter, we will not be able to complete our usual transition days ahead of the summer break. It is for this reason that we have amended our September start to allow all year groups to return to their current teacher and classroom on **Wednesday 2nd September**. We will then carry out transition days on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th September and from Monday 21st September all pupils will move to their new classes. To allow children to become familiar with their new class teachers, ahead of the summer break, all teachers will be recording a welcome video message for the children. These will be posted on the home page of the school website on Monday 13th July.

It is important for parents to note that there will be no provision at Broadoak for children of key worker families. Next week we hope to share with parents details of holiday clubs that are on offer in the local area.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your support over the past few months, I hope the information provided offers reassurance to parents that plans are well underway to ensure the best return for all children in September. As I have said on many occasions, I completely understand how difficult the past few months have been for all our Broadoak families. I am however so excited to be writing to you about the planned return. Both the staff and myself are looking forward to having the children back in school learning and having fun with their friends.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Karen Wild
Headteacher