



West End Academy

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Headteacher: Chris Johnson

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that this letter finds you and your family well. The government has announced that schools should fully reopen from the start of the autumn term. They have decided this because:

- The number of positive coronavirus cases is going down.
- The new NHS test and trace system is in place.
- We are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools.
- Time out of school is harmful to children's development.
- The risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus is low.

We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 8th September and are working hard to make the school a safe and enjoyable environment.

Under current government guidance, children under 12 do not have to wear face coverings in school. We therefore ask that all children remove face coverings before entering school.

Attendance will be compulsory from September and the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences. We will though support and reassure parents and children wherever there is a need.

From 1st August, the government advised that people who previously had to "shield" at home no longer needed to do so. The advice changed because the risk of getting coronavirus is now much lower than at the start of lockdown. This means that all children should be able to come back to school in September. However, if you have received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know. Please contact Mrs Shaw in the school's main office and continue to follow that guidance. Remote education will be offered to these pupils.

We will need to make some changes to take into account the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown. However, we'll still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad and rich curriculum. We will provide a more detailed plan on the school's website once we have assessed the impact of lockdown on the education of our children.

We understand that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils. Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support when returning to school. You can get in touch with the class teacher by firstly contacting Mrs Shaw in the school's main office.

We are looking forward to welcoming our children back and extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from the school community. We'll continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice. Please visit our school website www.west-endacademy.org and the Waterton Academy Trust website www.watertonacademytrust.org for updates and further information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Johnson
Headteacher



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