



An All-through Co-operative School  
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Friday, 10th July 2020

Dear Families

I am writing to you following the announcement of government plans for all pupils to attend school from September. The heart and soul of any school is the children it educates; the discussions in the classroom; the chance to ask and answer inquisitive questions and the laughter with friends at lunch time. Although our remote community has been thriving, Preston Manor will be glad to see the return of all students in September.

Of course returning to school is vital for your child's education and well being. To see the guidance released by the government on 2nd July for the full opening of schools [Click here](#). This means that from September all year groups will return full-time to school. The government states that the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased and the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running thus making it safer for schools to be able to return fully.

The government guidance is very clear that school attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term, which will mean the usual rules on school attendance will apply, and it is the parents' responsibility to ensure their child attends regularly. At Preston Manor we shall be taking a proactive and understanding approach to this in recognition that you may well have concerns about your child returning. If you have any concerns, I would encourage you to **contact your child's DSD this week** to discuss the concerns you may have. This will enable us to work in partnership with you to support their return.

We have been working really hard over the past week to get the school ready for welcoming all students back to school in September and to put measures in place to minimise any risk of the Covid-19 virus spreading. Our plans follow the government guidance in order to create an environment which is as risk free as possible. School will look very different in September with staggered arrivals and dismissal times for all year groups, robust hand and respiratory hygiene, new outside hand washing facilities, enhanced cleaning arrangements and minimal movement around the school buildings. Just a few other things we are planning to ensure safety include:

- keeping all year groups apart wherever possible in 'bubble' groups and having 'zoned' areas of the school.
- staggered lunchtimes for all year groups
- specialist equipment will be cleaned before and after use by separate bubbles
- no large gatherings such as whole year group assemblies in one hall
- all desks facing towards the front of the classroom (lab rooms where this is not possible will have special screening)
- parents and visitors restricted access to school sites without a pre arranged appointment and social distancing measures in place.



I will include further information in the end of term letter and will write to you again before the start of term to include more detailed information on how we will operate at the start of the new academic year.

While preparing to return safely is an immediate priority, student learning and progress is at the forefront of our planning. This week you will be receiving student reports, final 'zoom' or 'Google meets' classrooms and summer school work set. Google classrooms will be set up for year groups in Key stage 3. Bridging work is set up in google classrooms for year 11. Years 10 and 12 have individual classrooms with the summer work from all of their teachers. Please ensure that your child takes the time to engage with this work over the summer holidays.

In the first two days of the autumn term, we will be training all staff on new procedures, and improving our remote teaching alongside face to face teaching. This will enable us to be even better at including live streaming, should all or some of the school have to work from home in the event of a local lockdown. In addition to the above training early in the term, we are already working to identify and fill gaps in pupil's learning. This task involves the teachers tracking the quality and quantity of learning that our pupils have been able to submit over the lockdown period, identifying and planning for objectives not covered in the Summer Term and assessing progress when students return in September. We are planning an ambitious intervention to fill the gaps in learning created by the lockdown period.

I will write again at the end of term to celebrate the learning that has taken place this term and should be in a position to include much details for September in the '**Reminders / Newsworthy**' section.

Kind regards



Beth Kobel  
Headteacher