

Warmley Park School and College

Aspire, Believe, Enhance, Achieve

Newsletter No: 21 – 03rd July 2020

I hope everyone is well. There have been a number of emerging developments this week on the plans for September which I will summarise for you here with further information to be sent out next week.



We have been awarded a grant of £15,000 for a new fully inclusive library. This includes furniture and resources. Well done to Ellie for the successful grant application!



Sunflower Scheme - Parents and carers may be interested in looking at this as a way to support young people and families in the community. Thank you to Sharon for highlighting this.

<https://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/shop.html>

Bubble Arrangement - This week, we had a situation where a student had a high temperature and went for a COVID test which thankfully was negative. We acted quickly and our bubble arrangement proved effective in communicating with parents of other students and staff- essentially our own track and trace system. This caused minimal disruption and we were able to follow our plans knowing what to do and who to notify. I would like to thank the staff involved for their vigilance and also their calm approach. Due to the plans that we had in place, we all knew what to do and no time was wasted. I have been in contact with Public Health England, and South Gloucestershire Council about this as is detailed in our plans. South Gloucestershire have informed me that they have had 30 suspected cases in schools since the 1st June and all of them have been negative.

We're Going Back To School



Government guidance published this week indicates that they are expecting all pupils to return to school from September. We are also expecting all staff to be able to return to school.

Further to the government guidance, I have been involved in meeting with the other special school headteachers and the staff of the Education, Learning and Skills Team at South Gloucestershire. The ELST have produced South Gloucestershire guidance which includes specific reference to special schools and has been very helpful. The model that we will be using for September reopening is based on this.

On Friday, we had a Full Governing Body meeting where we discussed the plans and how we will implement the government guidance. Governors agreed a model of reopening and we are now working on this to draw out the details

Operational- we intend to use a phased model of reopening for pupils. All staff will be back doing their usual work pattern which will give us additional capacity to support pupils. We will, over a period which is likely to be 4 weeks, but could be slightly more, bring back pupils in a gradual and measured approach.

The government approach continues to include social distancing where possible but the focus has shifted to limiting the number of contacts that each pupil and member of staff has. Some of this is already successfully in place through our bubble model. Senior leaders have been in contact with parents this week and there is an overwhelming positive response from parents wanting their child to return, which is understandably mixed in with some anxiety about how their child will react as well as fears about COVID.

We will be using the Recovery Curriculum model for the first few weeks. This has a focus on reconnection and we believe that it will be essential for our pupils to be settled and steady before attempting to move into their usual teaching and learning.

Aims:

- To metaphorically “welcome pupils back with open arms”
- To ensure that adults are steady - both parents and staff, so that pupils feel secure
- To prepare for long term learning and engagement
- To reconnect through relationships
- To build trust
- To acknowledge what has happened over the last few months
- To ensure that school feels like a safe place for pupils

We acknowledge that it is not simply a case of pupils coming back to school and getting on with everything in the way it was before the pandemic. School life was fractured when lockdown started and we are now putting it back together. It will be ok, but it might be a bit different to the way it was before. The healing process will be affected by the lived experiences of the pandemic, resilience, and levels of confidence.

We are printing off some of the photos from Seesaw to create displays of the home learning that has taken place since lockdown. We love seeing all of the amazing work that is going on, so please continue to upload them. A huge thank you to parents and carers for the work that you have put in at home with your child to continue their education- the commitment and creativity is inspirational.

This coming week we will be sending out information about your child’s class for September. Before the end of term you will also receive their yearly report. Unfortunately we are unable to hold our usual end of year assemblies and gatherings.

As always, stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.