



# MALCOLM SARGENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Love To Learn*

14 September 2020

Dear Parents

## **UPDATE ON RETURN TO SCHOOL**

I am writing to update you on the return to whole school opening. Even after the partial openings of the summer term, it is the first time in approximately six months that we have all been back together as a school.

In summary, it has been really successful. The staff team has been incredible and the assistance from you in the parental community has been terrific. Most importantly, the children have been brilliant. Any concerns we may have had about their wellbeing and mental health have been assuaged by seeing the joy and happiness that they have shown by simply being back together with other children. It has been lovely to see!

Attendance is currently running at about 95% per day but we expect that this number will start to fall through the autumn term as people go through the system of self-isolating whilst awaiting test results. We understand that this process is disruptive and frustrating, but for the good of the community in limiting the potential spread of Covid-19 and in efforts to maintain the continuity of educational provision, it is so important to follow the guidance.

Overall, the new staggered timetables are working extremely well, and teachers will be making minor tweaks to suit their classes as the term unfolds. Class bubbles are already well established but also this means that the time spent together as a class unit within the classroom is greater than it has ever been as we limit the use of communal spaces. However, with suitable extra measures in place, the library was re-opened last week, and we are looking forward to the ICT suite being re-opened next. We have installed extra automatic hand sanitisers outside every external classroom to help speed up hand hygiene upon entry to the classrooms. Teachers are using "low-stakes" assessments, quizzes and tests etc to find out what the children know but they are only being used when they are going to lead directly to the adjustment of learning material being taught ie phonics in KS1 or spelling/times tables quizzes in KS2. There are no large scale summative assessments being undertaken for the time being.

All the indicators are that nationally coronavirus cases are on the rise again so do please continue to take care in practising social distancing, good hand and respiratory hygiene and being alert to any symptoms which may develop.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr T J Revell  
Principal