



3 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are looking forward to welcoming all of your children back to school next week. The school staff have been working hard during August to ensure that the school is ready to receive all of the children in a secure and sensitive way.

The chief medical officers from all four nations of the UK have made it clear that the overall risk to children from COVID-19 by attending school is very low indeed, but that the risks associated with not being in school are much higher. Therefore, the safest place for our children to be is in school, where we have extensive infection control measures in place to keep them safe.

Many of your children will have been in school in July and will be used to staggered start and finish times, to using one-way systems around the school and to keeping in their defined groups for their work and for their play times. These arrangements worked well in July for groups of 15 children and have now been adapted to meet the needs of whole-class groups in accordance with the advice from the Department for Education and Public Health England. Children will stay with their class group for the majority of their activities within school and will remain socially distanced from children in other classes. Your child's school has conducted extensive Risk Assessments and these will be constantly reviewed and adapted if medical advice changes.

The greatest risk for the transmission of COVID-19 in the community is between adults and thus we ask you to continue to socially distance at the school gates if you drop off and pick up your children. It also continues to be important that your children do not mix with children from other class groups out of school, apart from their own brothers and sisters, in order to reduce the likelihood of them being infected by the virus.

You all have a part to play in keeping schools safe during the pandemic. We ask you to continually encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and to use tissues (or even their sleeve) to catch coughs and sneezes rather than their hands and put the tissue in the bin straight away. I also ask you to keep your children at home if they have any Coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new continuous cough; or a loss of their sense of taste or smell. This is really important to keep infections out of the school.

I would like to thank you once again for the way that you supported your children's learning during the lockdown period. The government has assured us that should there be a rise in infection rate locally, schools would be the last to close, so we are hopeful that we will be able to deliver a full education programme to your children in school this year. We were however delighted with the work that children did at home last term and will continue to provide them with home learning tasks so that they continue to develop the skills of independent learning. I would encourage you to continue to stay involved in your child's learning as that makes such a difference to them.

If you have any concerns about the return do contact your headteacher, and don't forget about the wonderful Care First website which is available to support you too and contains some useful information about preparing your child for return:

<https://www.carefirst-lifestyle.co.uk?>

Username: unicatp

Password: wellbeing

The headteacher and staff are really looking forward to seeing your child back at school next week.

My very best wishes to you all.

Stay alert and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Samson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Mrs S M Samson

Chief Executive Officer

University of Chichester Academy Trust

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