



21st August 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

September Return to School

May we first take this opportunity to welcome you to Southmoor Academy as we look forward to a full return to school in September, we hope you and your family are having a safe and enjoyable summer.

We wanted to write to you at the earliest opportunity as your child will be joining us full time in September – this is of course good news but does not go without significant planning and preparation for the new way of schooling. The health, safety and welfare of pupils and staff is always our top priority and over the past several weeks we have been carrying out risk assessments and our school has been adapted in order for us to open safely in September.

We have adopted a twin approach in school to maintain a COVID secure environment of minimising the number of contacts each person has and ensuring increased cleaning and good hygiene. I want to take this opportunity to explain that in addition to the changes we have made in school, the very simple steps that we all currently take to help keep each other safe and healthy will still apply in September.

Please DO NOT send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms

What are the main symptoms?

- A temperature
- A new and persistent cough
- Loss of sense of taste or smell

What should you do if you have symptoms?

- Self-isolate immediately
- Get tested – you must do this at the earliest opportunity after developing symptoms
- DO NOT send your child to school if your child is showing symptoms or someone within the household has tested positive for COVID.

How do I get tested?

- You can book a test online at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Or you can call 119 and book over the phone
- Please inform the school immediately of the result of the test

Please remind your child they should still be:

- Washing their hands for 20 seconds regularly – it's one of the best ways to protect themselves
- Using hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water aren't available
- Staying 2m apart where possible
- Trying not to touch their face (mouth, nose, eyes) with their hands
- Using a tissue if they cough or sneeze, then bin it and wash your hands. If they don't have a tissue they should use the crook of their arm. Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!

Additional Measures

Within school we have put a number of new measures in place so that we can promote our twin approach to safety. These include:-

- Staggered start times for each year group.
- Year group bubbles within school buildings using different access points.
- Wall mounted hand sanitisers at every entrance, in every classroom, every office and key points around the school building.
- Boxes of tissues on each pupil desk to promote, Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!
- New bins in all rooms for the safe removal of used tissues
- 2m markers on all entrance paths, corridors and walkways
- Staggered break and lunchtimes for different year groups
- All seating within classrooms will face one direction and, only where possible, will also keep pupils 1m apart
- Enhanced cleaning during the day for touch points around the school building
- Timetables organised to minimise movement between lessons and to minimise contact between pupils
- Staggered finish times via the school tannoy
- One way systems within the school building

We hope that by putting the above measures in place you feel safe in the knowledge that we have followed all the current guidance and have completed an in depth risk assessment that has been externally checked by our health and safety professionals, the local education authority and unions. Along with the above measures we would like to ask for your support in a number of ways:

- Please encourage your child to walk to school and avoid dropping pupils off at the front of school. If pupils need to use public transport then they must follow the guidance for wearing a mask and to social distance
- Bring money to add to your child's lunch account. The cost of a school meal is £2.30. Pupils eligible for free school meals will have their accounts topped up automatically each day.
- Use the parent pay electronic platform to put money on to pupil accounts for lunchtimes (details will be sent to parents once the children are admitted in September)
- Think about bringing a packed lunch for some parts of the week
- Download the MyEd app so that you get instant news as we release it (details will be sent to parents once the children are admitted in September)
- Ensure your child has all the required equipment for the day (a pencil case and equipment will be provided free of charge on your child's first day)
- Remember to bring a sports-type or metal reusable water bottle
- No PE kit is required on the first day

The information below relates to your child only, if you have a child in another year group different arrangements will be made, please refer to the letter for that child.

Return Date: Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Start Time: 8:30am – please do not arrive more than 5 minutes before this time.

Entrance:	Main school drive (Ryhope Road) – please use the path to the right of the driveway.
Stairway Entrance:	G – staff will direct pupils to the correct area.
Break Time:	10:45am – 11:00am
Lunchtime:	12:00pm – 12:20pm
Break Time:	1:20pm – 1:40pm
Finish Time:	3:35pm – dismissal from the pupil pathway on Ryhope Road

Uniform :- All pupils are expected to attend in full school uniform including school blazer.

Please note, the gate on Queen Alexandra Road will remain locked and cannot be used to access the school.

After the lockdown school closure, we are looking forward to engaging the minds of all of our students again, having fun and sharing memorable experiences. However, rest assured that on our return we will make sure that all of our pupils will be guided in safe practice and behaviour expectations to ensure everyone feels comfortable and at ease with our adapted school systems.

IMPORTANT

In the lead up to our new Year 7 pupils starting with us in September, please ensure that all forms in the pupil admission pack have been completed and returned to Southmoor.

It is also a legal requirement that we take sight of an original copy of your child's valid passport **or** birth certificate before formally admitting your child. Please report in person to the Main School Reception at Southmoor, open Monday-Friday between 9.00am-3.00pm, where a photocopy of the document will be taken by **Friday 28th August 2020**. Please note that the document must be original and that copies cannot be accepted.

We look forward to welcoming your child in September. However, if the current national or local situation changes over the coming weeks leading to an adjustment to our plans we will be in touch.

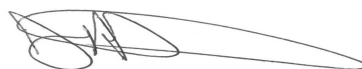
Yours sincerely

Mrs L Mellefont



Assistant Principal

Mr D Martin



Senior Leader (Health & safety)