

Orchard Manor School
John Nash Drive
Dawlish
Devon EX7 9SF



12th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are continuing to listen to government guidance to inform our decisions on our phased return for pupils. Our phased increase in pupils coming into school started this week with an increase in number of places being offered in addition to those being provided for children of key workers and our most vulnerable pupils.

Our increase in numbers in school is being guided by the government's request that schools should accommodate YR and Y1 initially, also pupils in Y6 transitioning to KS3 classes and students who are due to take accreditation next year. We are also considering class groups that we feel will most benefit from being in school. Our offer of in school places is also being informed by our risk assessment of individual pupils. For some pupils, we will identify additional support needs to be organised to support their safe return into school. For other pupils, we may offer outreach and home visits as part of a transition package; and for others, continuation of our remote learning offer will continue to be most appropriate.

Other important factors that we are having to consider is our ability to provide consistent and familiar staffing of groups to best support our pupils as they return. Additionally, we have to consider staffing within the kitchen and premises teams so that we have the capacity to effectively clean the school and provide cooked meals.

If the pandemic situation continues to improve through June and July, we will further increase the number of pupils in school, adding groups who are able to safely return to school. We will be in contact with individual parents before any return to school for pupils is agreed. We are currently looking at our ability to offer some in school time for our students who are due to take accreditation next year.

To best manage the increase of pupils in school at this time, the days that groups will be attending school will be staggered throughout the week.

Whilst pupil numbers start to increase, we will be reviewing on a daily and weekly basis how effective the measures in place are in keeping pupils and staff safe. The priority remaining the health, safety and welfare of the whole school community.

For our year 11 and Post 16 learners, school ends on the 30th of June and it is unlikely that they will be returning to school based learning before this date. We will however continue to provide our remote learning

offer and stay in regular communication. We will also continue to provide transition support and are planning a leaver's event that we hope will take place before the summer break.

Ofsted Update

During the last few months, you will all be aware that we have been focusing on keeping in touch with all our pupils, keeping everyone safe and working together to support our pupils, families and staff at Orchard Manor. Managing this, plus planning a safe return to school is requiring our full focus and commitment. However, we have received feedback that parents would like an update on the Ofsted visit that we received in January.

Following the inspection in January, Governors and the Senior Leadership team received verbal feedback and a copy of the draft report. However, at the start of the pandemic, Ofsted suspended all activity and we were informed that the Ofsted report would not therefore be published until Ofsted resumed normal activities.

Ofsted have since advised that schools may request early publication of their report. At this time we do not feel that requesting the early publication of our report would be right whilst we continue to focus on supporting our school community during the on-going pandemic.

We would expect to meet with parents, staff and pupils to discuss the inspection findings. Our current ability to meet with everyone though is restricted because of Covid-19 and we would not want to put anyone at risk by suggesting meetings. Once Covid-19 restrictions are eased, Ofsted will resume business as usual and will inform us when our report will be published. We will then arrange meetings with you to discuss the report and answer any questions you might have.

We want to assure you that whilst we have reflected on the strengths that were identified, we are also working with the Local Authority and our External School Improvement Partner to address areas that were raised for improvement. The areas we are working to improve include; having really strong processes for recording and reporting information- including our registration and attendance processes, further developing our curriculum, and ensuring that we communicate really effectively with you and all our staff.

We will continue to keep you informed of all developments in the school during these truly unprecedented times. As we continue to work very differently, I want to say again a massive thank you for your continued patience and support.

Best wishes,



Mark Rose
Executive Principal