



2 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update 2 July 2020 Covid-19

I am writing to thank you for your continued support and understanding of what we have in place in response to the guidance from the Department for Education. I have previously written that we are in uncharted waters and the course we are sailing keeps being diverted.

The guidance on reopening for September has been published this morning and there are some interesting key statements:

- The expectation is for all pupils to return to school and be organised into year group “bubbles” to ensure no interaction between them
- That each year group has a staggered start, break time and lunch time
- All pupils are in classrooms and sat at desks that face the front of the classroom
- All pupils should wash their hands on a regular basis

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

As in previous cases, I will write and update you on what a September opening will be for Titus Salt School once we have had time to review it and assess the implications for TSS.

Summer holiday arrangements

The DfE, on 30 June 2020, published the following statement:

“Summer holiday arrangements

The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that we are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period. Teachers, support staff and school leaders deserve a break, to recharge and rest.”

Therefore, school will be closed from Friday 17 July at 3.00pm. During the summer holiday period, the school’s Reception will be closed but a member of the Administration team will be in school and able to answer telephone enquiries. As is the case each year, different members of staff will be in school at different times throughout the summer holiday period; we will also be open for Results Days and to carry out preparations for the reopening to all year groups based on the guidance from DfE.

Start of Term September 2020

We have previously published the school calendar for the academic year 2020-2021 with a start date for all year groups on Monday 7 September 2020. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on our ability to carry out our normal procedures, you will be aware that we have not held our usual Transition Day of in-school activities for current Year 6 pupils who will be our new Year 7 in September. Following consultation with my Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Teacher Union Representatives and the Full Board of Governors we are making a change to the published school calendar as follows:

Thursday 3 September	Training Day (previously school holiday)
Friday 4 September	Year 6 Transition Day 9.30am to 2.30pm - only new Year 7 pupils will be in school on this day (previously Training Day)
Monday 7 September	all pupils in school based on a staggered start (as previously published)

Free School Meals and the National Voucher Scheme

The DfE have issued their guidance for the issuing of the vouchers for the summer holiday period: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-summer-food-fund>

The advice details how the vouchers can be used by parents/carers and that the full amount does not need to be spent in one visit to any one of the listed supermarkets.

“Amounts you can order

Through the Covid Summer Food Fund, schools can support eligible pupils with a £90 voucher to cover the 6-week holiday period.

You must ensure that there is no duplication or overlap between Covid Summer Food Fund vouchers and any vouchers that you have ordered to cover free school meals during the summer term.

The scheme has been designed to offer a £90 voucher for the standard school summer holiday. If your school's summer holiday lasts 7 full weeks (rather than 6), you can increase the voucher amount per child from £90 to £105.”

We will be issuing vouchers to cover a seven-week school holiday period as our first day back on 4 September 2020 is for our new Year 7 pupils. We understand that the voucher scheme also covers current Years 11 to 13. If any parent and carer becomes eligible please contact enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk and we will endeavour to process vouchers although currently there is no specific guidance regarding this for the period during the summer holiday. The Local Authority have a contact as they administer Free School Meals for Titus Salt School and parents/carers should still contact the Benefits Service directly on 01274 432772 or <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/> to make or amend a claim for Free School Meals. If your child is currently on Free School Meals at their primary school in Bradford, this claim will automatically be passed on to Titus Salt School.

The advice states that the application for vouchers should be made by individual schools at least one week before the end of term. Therefore, we will be making our application by Wednesday 8 July 2020 in case there is any problem with the voucher scheme website.

School Clothing Allowance

We continue to use part of our Pupil Premium funding to support the School Clothing Allowance scheme. These vouchers will be issued by email to parents/carers who have requested them through ParentMail. These vouchers will be issued week commencing 6 July 2020. The guidance for reopening in September states:

“We would, however, encourage all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.

Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

Schools should consider how pupil non-compliance is managed, taking a mindful and considerate approach in relation to parents who may be experiencing financial pressures.”

As always, we will continue to support families in this regard.

Access to IT devices

I have previously written regarding the roll out of the system to provide IT devices to pupils. Yesterday, headteachers received the following notification from Bradford LA:

"We are now beginning the process of distributing laptops (Chromebooks) to Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 pupils with social workers in Bradford's Schools as part of the DFE scheme. We will be starting from Friday the 3rd July. They will be distributed by the Passenger Transport Service and we will be contacting those schools who are receiving their devices first tomorrow.....Each Chromebook has been configured for each named child who has a social worker at your school. The logon and password for each child are included in the Chromebook box alongside a parental / guardian user agreement for each device. We have also included some age appropriate Online Safety documents and access to the following portal which opens on the Chromebook by default when it is turned on."

Safeguarding

The number of Safeguarding cases remains low and as previously, if parents/carers have any safeguarding concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk and one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads will be able to deal with the case

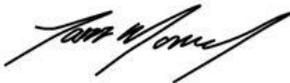
As I have previously written, if any parent/carer has any concerns and who does not already have a contact with someone in school, please contact the school on:

enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk

As I receive any further information, I will keep you updated. As is always the case, the situation is changing on a regular basis and making sense of the many documents of advice and guidance is challenging.

Once again, many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel

Headteacher