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25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I hope you are all well. Please find attached a Risk Assessment regarding the return of our pupils to school – all year groups are due back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

The Risk Assessment covers the way the school will be organised and carefully follows the guidance we have been given.

The Government has issued guidelines for returning to school in September. These can be accessed at:

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

For those children travelling on either Local Authority or College-subsidised buses, these guidelines include a section (2) on school transport, where it explains that children travelling on school buses (as opposed to public transport buses) are deemed to be in their own 'bubble' and as such are seen as a lower risk. Following the guidance, we must insist that children sit in the same seat on the bus each day. Children are facing forwards as per the guidance and, because school transport is classed as 'dedicated', face masks are not compulsory. We will advise pupils to wear them, but are unable to police this fully. Hand cleaning on entering the bus will be compulsory.

We will follow Government guidelines to reduce risks.

The Prime Minister has made the point that it is more dangerous for children to miss school than attend it and I am certain this is correct. We are determined to ensure that pupils are safe and are learning when they are in school; it is important that the measures are not so difficult to implement that children fall further behind.

We will, therefore, expect hard work and the high standards of courtesy and behaviour that we are used to. We will brief pupils on the first day back and ask them to help us and themselves by making sure that they see the successful implementation of the measures as a team effort by the whole school – we will ask them to let us know if anything is not up to our standards.

The Risk Assessment is a live working document and I anticipate that amendments will be made from time to time. It is quite possible that we will receive further guidance before term starts and we will make the necessary changes that result. We are currently working on standard operating procedures that we will share with staff before pupils return at the beginning of term.

Should you wish to give feedback or comment on the Risk Assessment, please email Mr Pullen, Estates Manager, at [tpullen@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk](mailto:tpullen@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk). We will keep the Risk Assessment live on the Academy website and refer you to any major changes.

Should your child become ill with a new and persistent cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell, they will be carefully supervised in a closed room, keeping away from others. We will call the parent/carer and the child will be sent home straight away to follow the stay at home guidance, where they should isolate for 10 days and arrange to have a test.

Should your child become unwell with any of the above symptoms at home, they must not come to school – they need to isolate for at least 10 days and have a test arranged straight away. There is guidance on the NHS website, as well as the Government website, which provides more details.

I would ask you to discuss all the information with your child and highlight the importance of following the guidance well.

We are all very keen to get back to school. Should you have any concerns, please let us know. We want full attendance from the first day and I would ask you to see the absence of one child through the eyes of the other children – education in school is a group activity which is far more effectively completed when all children are present.

Finally, as I write, there are rumours emerging that further guidance will be issued to explain that the wearing of face masks will be expected in some circumstances. Should this appear in revised Government guidelines, we will of course follow it and I will let you know about the expectations.

I will write again on 4<sup>th</sup> September either to provide you with further information or to confirm that there have been no further Government updates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Johnson  
Executive Headteacher