



20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Phased Reopening

As you'll imagine, we've had a busy week working towards an expanded provision. Thank you all very much indeed for your help with this process. I am very pleased to report that, based upon correspondence received, you are in unanimous support of our cautious approach.

We are awaiting the delivery of some important resources to prepare the site and will now not be safely ready to open to Year 6 until **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**. If the government advise that it is safe to do so, we will open to the agreed Year 6 pupils on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June for a morning session only and then for a full day on the Wednesday. The Year 6 provision will usually be closed on Friday afternoons to allow teachers to plan and prepare lessons without introducing additional adults to the carefully contained staff teams. The keyworker provision will not be affected by this and will open on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June as normal. If the number of pupils accessing our Year 6 provision increases and as we open to more year groups, we may need to reduce the number of days we can offer in order to accommodate the smaller class sizes. **If you intend to use the provision at a later date, please ensure that you allow us plenty of time to make arrangements.**

I will be writing to Year 6 parents tomorrow with more detail around how we will work together for the safety of all. However, I thought it worth sharing some of our key safety measures with you all here:

- Children will work in groups of no more than 15 pupils and relevant staff. These will work in isolation from other groups, pupils or staff in the school throughout the day.
- Drop-off times will be staggered to support social distancing. Please do observe your allocated time slot and leave the site as soon as possible after drop-off.
- All parents and children using the provision are asked to avoid public transport where possible and to observe strict social distancing at all times outside of school.
- Parents and non-essential visitors will be asked not to enter the building. We thank you for your support with this and will happily come to meet with you outside the building, observing social distancing guidelines.
- Outdoor learning will be prioritised to support wellbeing and better enable social distancing.
- Regular handwashing will be expected throughout the day. Additional facilities have been sourced.
- An extensive cleaning regime will be in place throughout the day.
- We will temporarily relax our uniform policy to allow families to wash clothes more regularly. Children may wear their own clothes and are asked to only wear items which can be washed easily.

As you would expect, we have conducted a thorough risk assessment and have in motion an extensive range of safety measures beyond those mentioned above. We will be updating this over the coming weeks as we learn more about how our range of measures can apply as safely as possible to our younger pupils.

## Mental Health Awareness Week

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week and is a great opportunity to refresh the conversation with your child about mental health. We talk regularly at Penpol about how we **all** have mental health and that it is just as important to look after this as it is our physical health. We also share the message that 'It is OK to not be OK'. Encouraging open and regular discussion about feelings and worries is the best way to support your child to feel mentally healthy. More information can be found here: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>. As always, if you have any concerns or queries around mental health, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we can help.

## Online Judo

Our fantastic judo instructor Francis is currently leading free online sessions which are open to all. He can be contacted at [Francis.sanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:Francis.sanderson@hotmail.com), 07737120005 or on his Penpol School Judo Club Facebook page.

## Be Internet Legends -Parentzone

Following our hugely successful assembly a few weeks ago, Jacob Woolcock would like to recommend some fantastic information sessions for parents and carers. More information can be found here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/be-internet-legends-parent-sessions>.

## Half Term

Finally, next week (beginning 25<sup>th</sup> May) is the half term break. Our team will be taking a well-earned rest for much of the week and we thoroughly recommend that your children do too. I will remain contactable via email throughout should you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you all for your continued support in these unusual times. As always, our team is here to help you in any way we can.

Very best wishes,

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