



24 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It seems very bizarre to be welcoming you to the end of our first week of the Summer term as we finish 5 weeks of national lockdown. I hope that all of our families are staying safe and healthy in these difficult and strange times!

May I begin by once again thanking all of you for your ongoing support. It has been a real privilege to see and hear about some of the work and activities that you have undertaken with your child/children during this time together at home. Many of the pupils are completing the tasks set, as well as enjoying wider learning such as learning to ride a bike or planting and tending to freshly grown vegetables. The staff and I would like to thank you all for the dedication and commitment you have all made to ensure your child continues to learn in the home environment. I would like to publicly thank and acknowledge the work of our staff team in providing work for pupils and responding to online queries and questions to support these efforts. I would also like to reiterate our thanks and that of our community to those parents and carers that are key workers, and continue to work hard to keep people safe and get us all through this situation.

I have received a number of queries regarding our planned residential trips for this summer term. In fact, if the pandemic had not affected us, our Year 5's would be enjoying the sunshine at Osmington Bay as I write this letter. I can confirm that all trips and visits are postponed and we are working hard to reschedule them for the pupils. These trips may take place much later in the year or at a similar time in 2021. We do not want to plan or confirm dates until we receive further guidance and advice, along with a better understanding of how long social distancing measures and travel restrictions may be in place for. As such, if your child is due to go to Germany or London, please do not send any more payments into school until these plans are confirmed and communicated to you.

I have also received a number of queries regarding when schools might re-open. I cannot answer this question as the information we are receiving is no different to that seen by you. I can, however, share that we are making contingency plans for a number of scenarios, including re-opening imminently through to a September start, to ensure that both the pupils and the staff are safe to return. Needless to say I, along with the governing body and the Wessex Learning Trust, will only do so when we are assured that there is no risk to any of our community. These scenarios take into account a number of factors, and there will be many school based events that may need to be adapted, cancelled or planned for later in response to this. We are, however, working closely with our partners across the Cheddar Valley and Somerset to ensure things such as transition are highlighted in these plans.

We are developing a section of the website for our pupils to access. The section is appropriately titled "Pupils" where there will shortly be a variety of resources to support their mental health and well-being at home. Please do keep an eye on our website and Twitter feed for regular updates and feel free to share them through your social media platforms.

Please take care and stay safe. I look forward to welcoming you, and most importantly the children, back into Fairlands when it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



Fairlands Middle School

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Headteacher: Stefan McHale
Deputy Headteachers: Helen Heffernan and Kate Persaud
Associate Leaders: Robert Cooling and Matthew Vincent SENDCo

Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Designated Safeguarding Deputies
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224