



Fairlands Middle School

Caring and Inspirational



17 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the new academic year! The first few days back have certainly felt much more “typical” of Fairlands as the pupils have moved from class to class to enjoy their learning. It has been wonderful to hear our new Year 5 pupils gasp in amazement at the different rooms, as well as our Year 6 and 7 pupils who were denied this opportunity last year. Thank you for preparing them so well for their return and for ensuring they have all the correct equipment and look smart in their uniform and PE kit.

At the end of last year, I wrote to parents/carers to share our intention to run a 2-week timetable this year. After a lot of planning, there are some aspects that need further work, so pupils will remain on a one-week timetable for this academic year. Lessons I have visited so far have all been good and the pupils are engaged and enthusiastic in their learning.

Please find attached a copy of the school calendar. A copy can also be found on our website. Please note that the last day of the academic year for pupils is Thursday 21 July 2022.

New families should all have received information regarding our electronic payment system ParentPay. I would urge all families to sign up to this system to purchase meal cards and pay for trips and visits when they commence again.

A reminder that the school site opens for pupils at 8.45am and they are using specific school entrances and exits to ease congestion and support social distancing measures at the start and end of school. The areas are as follows:

Year 5	-	Via Main Reception
Year 6	-	Via front of school (Humanities/MFL block)
Year 7	-	Via Masons Way (maths block)
Year 8	-	Via Fairlands Way (English block)

As large numbers of pupils gather in these areas can I politely remind all families that our school operates a one-way system for traffic, entering from the Masons Way entrance. No families should drive on site without prior permission in order to keep our site safe for all users.

Existing families will note that pupils are not using planners or Edmodo this year. We have purchased a new platform (ClassCharts) which will replace both of these systems. Pupils are currently receiving their logins and parental ones will be sent in the coming weeks. The ClassCharts system will enable pupils and families to access their timetables, receive and submit homework, as well as keep track of achievements and concerns. More details to follow soon.



Fairlands Middle School

Masons Way, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3PG, Tel: (01934) 743186 Absence Line: (01934) 743908
E-Mail: office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk Website: www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

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



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You will have noted the recent government announcement that young people aged 12 – 15 in England will be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers. The information published so far advises that, like all other school based vaccination programmes, this vaccine will be administered by healthcare staff with appropriate qualifications, trained in vaccination of children and young people.

Please be assured we will comply with all the necessary guidance issued from the Department for Education and Public Health England. We will keep you updated as we receive further information. Our understanding at this stage is that it will be offered alongside the flu vaccination for pupils in that age group, with a separate flu vaccination offer on a different date for our younger pupils.

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have been given Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests for home use, which they should use twice per week until the government review at the end of September. I am aware that these tests are different to the ones used recently in school, and would remind families that they need both an oral and nasal swab as part of the test.

All families are automatically part of our Friends, Parents and Teachers Association (FPTA). The AGM will take place on Monday 4 October at 6pm via Microsoft Teams. The group is hugely supportive of the school and has provided items such as lockers and the school radio over recent years. More recently, families have chosen to provide a single donation which proved invaluable over the last 2 academic years with fundraising events not able to take place. If you would like to get involved in this group, please feel free to join. Further information can be shared by contacting the school office.

If you need to contact us at any time, please do so by emailing office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk or visit our website www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

I look forward to working together this year and thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



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