

13 July 2020

Hello all

I trust you are all well. Claire Redford emailed out End of Year Reports to you all last week and she also posted a paper copy. If you are unable to access the Publisher document via email and you have not yet received the posted copies, please feel free to pop into school and Claire Redford will print another copy for you. The report was also emailed and posted out along with a letter from myself and a social story which shows you and your child/young adult, which class they will be part of, in September 2020.

With regards to the start of term in September, school will be closed for the first two weeks and will open to all pupils on Monday 14th September. This provides us with an opportunity to ensure all staff are fully trained in statutory training, such as Physical Intervention and De-escalation, Manual handling, First Aid and medical and health care needs bespoke to some individual pupils. Training has not been able to go ahead during the summer term, due to COVID-19 restrictions and the training needed is paramount, to ensure our pupils are safe and exceptionally well cared for when they are in school. Also, for the first two weeks in September, pupils who are new to the school will have opportunities for transition because again, this has not been able to go ahead, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

I understand the delayed start to the term will be disappointing for many of you and I am fully aware of how challenging the summer holidays can be for our pupils and their families and this is without taking into account the majority of our pupils have been at home for an extended period of time prior to the summer holidays and now will also not be returning until Monday 14th September.

When school 'opens' on the 14th September, we still need to bear in mind COVID-19 guidance and government publications. All pupils will need to bring a packed lunch into school. Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch. The pupils will remain in class groups for the duration of each day and they, along with staff, will not mix with any other 'bubble'. Classes will have allocated toilets/hygiene suites and these will be labelled with text and symbols, to support the pupils' understanding of this. Shared spaces within school, for example, the hall, library, hydrotherapy pool, etc. will not be able to be accessed by pupils for the time being.

Transport will be provided by Royal Taxis but the Local Authority are NOT requesting that transport companies transport pupils in 'class bubbles'. Whilst this is exceptionally



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frustrating for staff at school and for yourselves (when you consider the restrictions we have to implement in school) there is nothing I can do to change this decision. I would be very grateful, if at all possible, parents/carers could transport their children/young adults to and from school, for the first few weeks to minimise the risk of COVID-19 spreading on taxis. Please let me know using the email address claire.moore@garth-cit.co.uk if you can and will be transporting your child/young adult to and from school, if you usually access transport.

I hope you all have as good a summer as you can during these difficult times and I'd like to thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Kind Regards,

Claire.

Claire Moore
Head Teacher

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