



Wednesday, 08 July 2020

THE CORBET SCHOOL

Headteacher Dr Jane Tinker BSc MA(Ed) EdD NPQH

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to the penultimate weekly update in what will be a bumper edition with a lot of important news about returning to school in September.

I would like parents of Year 11 to know that Prime Minister Boris Johnson is to address all school leavers on Friday 10th July at 10am, the Prime Minister will be giving an address to all school leavers which will be broadcast on Facebook and YouTube. A recording will be available on both platforms if they miss it and want to catch up.

We are exceptionally busy planning for September and will have full guidance out to parents next Monday once we have worked our way through the finer detail but I will set out below a few of the key principles to enable us to ensure that, as far as possible, the school is COVID-secure and that we are minimising the chance of the virus spreading:

- Pupils or staff showing any signs of corona virus should not attend school and arrange to have a test. All other members of their household should self-isolate until the results come through. If negative, all can return to normal activity. If positive, it is a 7-day isolation for the person who is ill and a 14-day isolation for all other members of their household. Anyone showing symptoms at school will be isolated and sent home therefore it is very important that we have correct contact details and that a parent or carer is available to come and collect their child if needed.
- Pupils will not need to socially distance from other pupils in their year group, but they will have to socially distance from staff.
- Pupils will be in year group bubbles who will mix as infrequently as possible during the school day.
- A full risk assessment will be in place.
- There is a major focus on hand hygiene and to facilitate this there are hand sanitisers around the school site.

I will provide far more detailed document about what this will look like and thank parents for their patience whilst we are working on it.

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Return to school in September Transport

The following is taken from a communication I have received into school today.

Shropshire School Transport for September 2020

Shropshire Council's approach to school transport from September 2020 is geared to meeting the principles underpinning the system of controls and guidance set out by the DfE and DfT. The Shropshire's school transport network will be geared as follows:

1. Dedicated/contracted school transport buses/taxis will return to 100% passenger loading capacity wef 2 September 2020 – **no social distancing**.
1. Where we can, entitled pupils on provided bus/coach transport will be seated to reflect **Year Group 'bubbles'**, with the eldest Year Group 'bubble' sitting at the rear, progressing to the youngest at the front in age order (please see bus schematics appended to the letter). For SEND (and Adult Services) we may not always be able to fully accommodate this but will endeavour to do so.
2. Pupils over the age of 11 should wear **face coverings** whilst on the bus/taxi (note that on public transport this is mandatory). This may not always be possible for SEND pupils (and Adult Services Transport). Schools and parents also need to evaluate risks and consider if there are specific reasons why a child may not be able to travel on school transport at any time.

NB: Schools should have a process for removing face coverings when pupils and staff who use them arrive at school and communicate it clearly to them. Pupils must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing them. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival (as is the case for all pupils), dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

3. Operators will aim to provide **hand sanitiser** for pupils upon boarding buses.
4. We expect pupils to be socially distanced whilst **queuing** and boarding buses where possible – schools will be required to support operators in managing this at the school site.
5. Whilst travelling, pupils should always **stay seated**, avoid physical contact, face forwards and away from others, and not shout or raise their voices.
6. School transport will operate as per its pre-Covid-19 **vehicle sizes, times, and routes** but we will look to provide separate transport for pupils of different schools where they currently share one bus.
7. On **public transport** (local bus services) buses which are still socially distancing at 50% capacity, the DfT has asked us to actively ease loading pressures on public buses and where we have more than 10 entitled pupils per bus, we'll look for alternative transport options.



8. Similarly, where **non-entitled pupils travel** on public transport (local bus services) also used by the public, parents should be encouraged to find alternative ways of getting their children to school – if they live in the same town/community as the school, active travel (walking/cycling) should be the first choice. The second choice should be travel by car. Only if none of these options are available to parents should they use public transport. Once the Covid-19 emergency eases, we will want to encourage pupils back onto public buses from cars as soon as we can.
9. Where public buses are operating and **dedicated to non-entitled pupils** only, with no adult fare payers, we are working with operators to see if 100% loading capacities can be applied.
10. We assume that pupils will **wash/sanitise** their hands as they enter school from the bus/taxi.
11. Transport operators have since April 2020 provided additional **cleaning of vehicles** to protect against Coronavirus.
12. Government (DfT) **Covid-19 travel advice** should be adhered to and can be found using the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

13. The Council's '**Guidance for School Transport Provision**' should also be followed and this is published on the Council's internet site and will be updated to reflect the new plans for September 2020.

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/guidance-for-school-transport-provision-from-1-june-2020/>

Below are the actions that Shropshire Transport would like us to take and I would appreciate parents support with this:

1. Advise parents of all your entitled transported pupils what we are planning, including the new Year Group 'Bubble' seating arrangements, new Covid-19 safety rules for travelling on buses, **hand sanitisation on boarding, the requirement for face coverings and the need for their children to obey the on-bus safety rules.**

Here is an example of the bus plan:



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Year 7 pupils are in Bubble 1.

2. We will make arrangements for pupils arriving off school transport re hand washing/sanitising, safe disposal or retention of face coverings and social distanced queuing for the return journey.
3. We are contacting parents of non-entitled pupils travelling on public transport to assess which of them have no option but to rely on public transport next term, and **to get back to Shropshire Transport by 17 July 2020**, using the telephone number or email address below.

Telephone: 01743 253031

Email responses to: passtrans@shropshire.gov.uk

September 2020 Return to School Arrangements 2nd September

There has been much discussion about the best and most supportive way to bring the pupils back to school in September. All year groups will have their own challenges, different experiences of lockdown and school over the last four months. To support the pupils to have an appropriately supported and calm start to a school that will be, in some ways, very different from the one they left in March I have taken the decision that a staggered return would be the most supportive approach. On Wednesday 2nd September, Years 8,9 & 10 will return to school and meet with their tutors until break to talk through their experiences of lockdown and the new arrangements in place at school and go into their lessons 3 to 5. On Thursday, we will welcome back Year 7 & 11 only, as the new Year 7 have not been able to experience New Intake Day, Years 8,9 & 10 will not attend school on Thursday to give the Year 7 the chance for this experience and to ease them into The Corbet School; again it will be a tutor session until break and then normal lessons for Year 7 and 11. On Friday we will welcome everyone back for a normal day of lessons so that everyone is settled back at school before the weekend. I know that this is not ideal and I have spent considerable time thinking about the best thing to do and feel that this gives us the space and time to meet the needs of all pupils to ensure as successful a re-start as possible following what has been at best a very strange and challenging time for us all.

Teaching and Learning: Work will continue to be set for pupils on Satchel up to the last day of term. Teachers will be available to support pupils as normal up to this time. Zoom sessions are likely to continue next week for relevant groups.

Over the summer holidays, no compulsory work will be set for pupils. Some teachers may decide to set optional holiday work for pupils who feel they would like to continue studying over this period. Pupils may also choose to complete work which they feel they have not had time to finish during term time. There will be no expectation

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Year 10 History Trip to London: it is with regret, the Year 10 history trip to London has been cancelled. The initial deposit of £50 will be returned once received from the insurance company, other monies will be returned as soon as possible. Further details will follow from the finance department.

Year 11 Support, Wellbeing & Exam Results Day Process: A letter to Year 11 pupils and their parents regarding this has also been sent out today.

Library Loans: Mrs Brett, our school Librarian has asked me to mention Library loans. As we went into lockdown, there were over 150 library books out on loan and we currently putting plans in place to recover as many of these as possible. Firstly, many thanks to the parents/carers of some of our key worker and our Year 10 children, who have already returned Library books. If possible, we would like Year 11 pupils to return their Library books when they come into school to drop off their locker keys or when they collect their exam results. Parents/carers of pupils in Year 7 to 9 are kindly asked to locate their Library books and to set them to one side for return to school in September. Obviously, all fines will be waived, providing books are returned in the condition in which they were borrowed. Mrs Brett would like to thank parents/carers and students in anticipation of your assistance with this matter.

Whole school communication: We will continue with the weekly update until the end of term and please do continue to look out for e-mail updates throughout the week from other members of staff.

Please can we ask that if you need to contact us to do so via email: admin@corbetschool.net. This will allow us to direct your question to the most appropriate member of staff.

We are getting closer now to the end of term on Thursday 16th July and can confirm that we will be finishing school at 3.20pm on that day.

Finally, please continue to contact us with any questions and concerns using the admin email address, stay safe and well and thank you so much for your continued support, we really do appreciate it.

Yours sincerely

Jane Tinker.

Dr Jane Tinker
Headteacher

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