



15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly I would like to look back and celebrate all that the children have achieved at the end of a very challenging year for everyone.

I would also like to thank you all for following the rules I set out to keep us all safe, and the academy open as far as possible. Whoever would have imagined a school where visitors could not enter, staff wore masks and children lined up to have their hands covered in gel?

We managed to avoid closing any bubbles for so long and when others were closing, we stayed the course, but in the last three weeks, the virus has sadly impacted many of our children and staff and we have had to close five out of eight classes. The staff have once again pulled together as brilliantly as ever, to deliver packs, organise laptops, supply free school meal vouchers and deliver on-line learning whilst providing lessons to those still in school. More children than ever have logged into the Zoom lessons and tried very hard to keep up with their take care work, which is absolutely fantastic.

As you are probably aware, the levels of infection in our area remain high. Each time we have a case, I take advice from the DfE and Public Health England on how to proceed. For the first time, our school was escalated to the Local Health Protection Team for further advice. They checked our procedures are sound and have advised us to continue with current prevention strategies which include: maintaining 2m social distancing, enhanced cleaning regimes, holding virtual meetings rather than large gatherings and reinforcing hand and respiratory hygiene. All of these measures are in place and will remain in place until the end of the term. From 19<sup>th</sup> July, we will continue with the current routines and expectations. Staff will wear masks when talking to parents/carers to reduce infection rates and we ask that you continue to wear your masks on site and keep 2 metres distance from staff.

In September, we will then return to most of our usual, pre-pandemic routines:

- Start time of arrival between 8.40-8.50am and end time of 3.15pm.
- Children will continue to enter/exit classrooms through the fire doors, walking around the outside of the building.
- The drive way will remain closed to vehicles and open for walking access between 8.35 -9 am and 3.05 -3.25pm.
- Playtimes will remain staggered for upper and lower KS2.
- Dinner times will revert to eating in the hall.
- Teachers can decide how to set out the classrooms, return to using cloakrooms and sharing equipment.
- All children will be provided with a water bottle and provided with water to drink.
- Children will continue to arrive in PE kit on PE days to avoid learning time lost due to changing clothing. All children will be expected to wear the correct PE uniform with trainers.
- Staff will no longer wear masks when greeting parents/carers.
- We will continue to encourage children to wash/gel hands regularly.
- Enhanced cleaning systems remain in place.
- We will resume holding events with parents/carers in school.
- All children will be expected to wear the correct uniform including shoes, not Ugg style boots or trainers, no leggings or non-uniform jumpers.

**Obviously this is all subject to further government directives and advice in the Autumn term. We all have our fingers crossed for a more normal return on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. I would like to wish you all a happy and safe summer holiday.**

Mrs Wood, staff and governors at The Carlton Junior Academy