



17 July 2020

Dear Residents of Quorn,

Returning to School – Open Letter to the Village

As you will be aware, the pandemic has had a huge impact on everyone's lives in recent months. As we all return to our 'new normal' in the coming week, schools will be returning to full capacity in late August/early September. I wanted to assure everyone within the community that we have been planning to ensure as safe a return as possible within the guidelines issued by the government last week. We believe it is important for us as a school to let the community know what the plans are because in any scenario like this, there may be an impact upon residents too.

Pupils will be returning to school 'in bubbles' and will have staggered arrivals. Once on the school site, we will be able to maintain the appropriate social distancing as per the recommendations but we are aware that transport to and from school will not be the same and we acknowledge this may bring some issues to the village.

Pupils will be encouraged to walk and cycle, however, we are aware that public transport will not be as easy to use with fewer people allowed on each bus. The number of school buses may also increase in order to facilitate the appropriate distancing measures. Due to our large catchment area, this may mean that we have an increased number of parents who may therefore need to transport their children to the village.

I have met with a number of local representatives in order to talk through the potential issues of 1600 pupils and 250 staff returning to a site in the centre of a small village. We know that that it can and will create issues during term time and are currently investigating a number of options to ease the possible congestion. We hope that some of these may become longer term solutions in the future, for example we are looking at drop off points at the edge of the village and reducing bus traffic on Sarson Street.

We acknowledge that the final solution will be a best fit and as a consequence there will be compromises for everyone. I know that some of these changes may cause some anxiety and we obviously want to reduce any inconvenience, so we will keep you updated through the village website and social media feeds over the summer as our plans finalise. Parents will be updated further via communications from the school.

Our 'new normal' is going to be very strange for so many of us to begin with in the coming months. I know as a school community we will rise to the challenges and so I wanted to say thank you in advance for your understanding in these unprecedented times. If you do have any suggestions/ideas please do not hesitate to let us know via enquiries@rawlinsacademy.org.uk.

Kind regards,

Miss Clare Darby
Principal