



Akrotiri School

Friday Feeling

#31

Friday 21 May 2020

As you are aware DCYP/MOD schools are currently in consultation with trade unions to re-open our schools from the week beginning 1 June. We are hopeful this consultation will end towards the end of half term and I can then update you on the proposals. We would like to thank you for your patience and would like to share with you the planning that has been going on in school to ensure that we open our school safely for all our children and staff.

Updates and planning for re-opening:

Timings

In line with the other primary schools across BFC, we are planning to open from 0800 to 1300, Monday to Thursday. There will be a slightly earlier finish on Fridays at 1200 to allow for staff to plan and prepare learning for the following week, to review any working practices and to deep clean the resources in all areas.

Risk Assessment

At Akrotiri School, we have produced a robust risk assessment for our return to school. This has been completed alongside our SLT and SHEF rep and staff have all had the opportunity to contribute. The risk assessment has then been quality assured by the Health and Safety Advisor for the MOD. RAs have also been shared with Comd Med here in Cyprus. They will remain under constant review for the safety of all staff and children. This a live document which will remain flexible in response to latest guidelines and information.

Cleaning

We are working closely with Sodexo who manage our cleaning and there is a revised cleaning schedule in place which will meet our daily rigorous cleaning requirements with a particular focus on door handles, hard surfaces, etc. We are discussing changes to shift patterns with our cleaners to keep sites as clean as possible.

Social distancing

We will be working in smaller numbers in all of our classrooms, this will enable social distancing between teachers and pupils. Classrooms have been carefully planned out with tables positioned at a distance and we will use additional rooms to enable fewer pupils in a room. Break times will be shorter with fewer children due to a staggered approach.

Drop off/Pick Up

Staggered drop-off and collection times for children by parents/carers will be shared once we have our year groups confirmed.

Building Ventilation

Systematic and adequate ventilation of all spaces mainly during breaks and during lessons will be maintained. The use of air conditioning will be used when it is needed.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

PPE will not be required for children, but regular hand-washing and robust hygiene measures will be in place.

Antiseptic Gel

Antiseptic cleaning gel will be available at the entrance of every classroom.

Thermometers

Non-contact thermometers will be available in all our schools and settings.

Transport

We will adhere to current guidelines for public transport at 50% occupancy. Following RoC rules coach drivers will wear face masks, provided by their employer.

Children Not in School/Self-Isolation

If you or any member of your family are self-isolating, please can I remind you that your child(ren) must **NOT** attend school. We will continue to set work for children who are unable to return to school because of compulsory isolation or medical shielding. If your child displays any COVID19 symptoms or is generally unwell, please inform the school and keep them off school. In all other cases, we strongly encourage that your child(ren) start to return to school inline with the reintegration plan, once I am able to share it with you.

Trips

All trips and activities planned for the summer term have been cancelled and we will review these as soon as we are able to. This will not impact on Y6-Y7 transition.

As soon as the consultation is complete I will write to you to set out our plans for re-opening. We anticipate that our Y6 children will come into school first, provisionally during the week commencing 1 June - date to be confirmed. I will keep you informed as we progress with regard to which year group will return on which date(s).

As we draw this half term to a close - it is worth considering the positive attitude that this incredible situation has fostered within many of us. As we see the restrictions reduce, I think that there are many strengths resulting from lockdown which we should hold onto in the future. In the words of Stevie Wonder, *'When you're moving in the positive, your destination is the brightest star.'*

Have a tremendous and well deserved half term break.

Ben Turner

Headmaster

