



Florendine Covid-19 August update.

I hope all our Florendine families are well and have had some chance to spend some quality time together during these challenging times.

As we prepare to welcome all children back to school at the beginning of September, there are a few details I would like to update you with.

Firstly, thank you for all of your hard work in supporting your child's learning from home throughout the school closure period. If one positive can be drawn from this experience it has been our school community's excellent communication, co-operation and commitment to supporting our children during this difficult time.

Secondly, it is still our plan to re-open fully, using the phase bubble model described in earlier communication, on Wednesday the 2nd of September. This will include our before and after school clubs as well as school meal provision.

I want to dispel any anxiety you may have about how much your child has fallen behind during this period. The whole country's school-based learning has been paused, so what or who have they actually fallen behind? It is true that they may not be where they would have been if all things had remained normal but we will work with the children to re-establish their positive attitudes to learning, reconnect with the benefits of learning together and work collectively on re-establishing a productive school routine once again.

We will not be testing to find out where they are at now, we will not be narrowing the curriculum to focus purely on maths and English and we will not be pressuring children to get to where they ought to be as quickly as possible. We will take the necessary time to ease the children back into school life following an experience that no-one has previously encountered.

We will be taking the time to allow the children to reconnect with friends, staff and the routines now established under our "new normal". We will prioritise the mental health and well-being of all members of our school community; pupils, staff and parents, during this initial period of return.

I know that many of you will still be anxious about your child's return to school in September but as we gradually come to terms with living with Covid-19, we will have to start working within this "new normal" framework. We will do everything in our power to ensure that the return to school in September is as safe as we can make it, obviously we cannot guarantee that it will be risk free. The decisions made and actions taken will always be based on what is best for our children and the wider community.

As you know the Government is prioritising the full opening of schools in September and will, if necessary, take other restrictive measures to ensure that this can go ahead. I will update you further next week with more details and our responses to any changes that may have arisen by then.

Stay safe

Mr Crookes