



# Bishop Stopford's School

Brick Lane, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3PU

Headteacher: Ms T. Day BA (Hons), NPQH

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

## POSSIBLE RETURN TO SCHOOL

On Sunday and throughout this week the Prime Minister and his Government have been slowly releasing guidance on how we might return to school. The first phase of wider opening of educational and childcare settings is likely to begin from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June with the Government asking nurseries and other early years settings to open to all children; primary schools to welcome back pupils to Nursery, Reception, year 1 and year 6 (including in middle schools); secondary schools and colleges to offer some face to face support for children and young people in year 10 and year 12 to supplement their remote education, depending on the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus. This said, it is unlikely that current years 7,8, and 9 will return before the summer, although we are adapting to updates as and when we receive them. Of course, the sooner we are all back in school the better.

The leadership team at Bishop Stopford's school are currently working on plans should we be able to welcome students back to school in the summer term. The process is of course extensive, the way that we are working in schools has been transformed and we are likely to continue working with a blend of learning over the coming months. It is anticipated that class sizes will be limited, that breaks will be staggered, and that there will be different start and end times to the school day to reduce the number of children in the building at any one time. We want to ensure that our plans follow all available guidance and that we return to school safely protecting all of our students and staff. You will receive full details of any plans, in good time, before we re-open, but would ask for your patience in this matter.

Whilst we are preparing for return you may find it useful to read [government guidance](#) to help you make a considered decision about your child's return (we will of course be following all guidance stringently). If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school.

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are not in a position right now to extend places to other



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students until we receive further government guidance and we have undertaken robust planning.

## **YOUR OPINIONS MATTER**

Thank you to all of you who completed the online questionnaires last week. The feedback that we received has been very positive and will allow us to adapt our provision further moving forward. The overwhelming response was that the school is providing an effective, engaging, and empowering diet of learning. You confirm that most students with a few exceptions have access to a laptop or smart device and the internet. We have been working closely with individual families where this is not the case to ensure that no child is left behind. If you are still struggling to access work please do contact us on the usual school email [generaloffice@bishopstopfords.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:generaloffice@bishopstopfords.enfield.sch.uk). Once we have completed detailed planning for any return, I will be again be canvassing parents for their opinions via questionnaire.

## **ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?**

As we move through this period, I am aware that the income of some families has reduced, and you may now be eligible for Free School Meals. At the moment we are using the government scheme which entitles families to supermarket vouchers. If you think you may now be eligible, please register with Enfield Council by email. Further detail, including the application form can be accessed here:

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/school-welfareand-information/school-meals/>

To conclude, please do continue to take care of yourselves and thank you for all your support during these unusual times.

Warm regards,

Mrs Day



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