22/06/20

Dear Colleagues, Pupils and Families

THANK YOU.

Thank you for all that you have done this year. A year unlike I and I am sure all of you have ever experienced. Lockdown has presented a major challenge to our school and to our community as we all learn to adapt to life with covid19.

I know that some of you will have experienced the loss of a loved one or a dear friend through this very challenging period in our lives. I extend my own personal sympathy to you if you have been affected in this way and indeed I also extend the sympathy and warmth to you from my amazing colleagues.

School life has been extremely different these past months. We have all had to adjust to remote learning and learning in new ways. I fully appreciate that has taken a considerable adjustment and I thank all of you for all that you have achieved.

We have been busy planning recovery and what school may look like in August:

SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

* All classrooms have been rearranged to support the current guidance on social distancing – pupils will be in pods of 10 in some classes. We have also utilised other spaces in the school to offer larger areas such as gym halls which can accommodate more pupils – again we have ensured that the current advice on social distancing has been put in place.
* Entry / exit and in school movement for staff and pupils will be safely managed each day when pupils are in school.
* Everyone who enters the school has a responsibility to support health and safety; hand sanitising on entry and exit to and from the school, hand washing throughout the day and maintaining social distancing. These will all be key to keeping everyone safe. We expect everyone to follow this important health advice.
* The school day has been adapted to support health and safety. Pupils will enter and leave the school from designated muster zones. We have also designated pupil parent drop off points - OUTSIDE the school – parents are not permitted to drop pupils off inside the school grounds, unless there is a medical reason for having that in place. The muster point / drop off information will be added to the school web site and we will notify you when that is available.
* The pupil day will look like this;

|  |
| --- |
| STAGGERED START 8.45-9am (report to muster zone) |
| SESSION 1 9-10.40am approx. |
| INTERVAL 10.40-11.10am approx. |
| SESSION 2 11.10am -12.50pm |
| LUNCH 12.50- 1.30pm |
| SESSION 3 1.30pm – 3.10pm |
| STAGGERED EXIT 3.10pm onwards |

We will make use of our muster zones throughout the school day to support pupils to safely enter and exit the school. The muster zones have been devised so that only one year group occupies the same muster zone across the school week.

CURRICULUM

* To minimise pupil movement, pupils will be taught in “big blocks” essentially in the same class with the same teacher for what would be 2 x 50 minute lessons in a row. We will make use of subject rotations in S1, S2 and S3 to provide pupils in those year groups with direct teaching in all of their curricular areas.
* Our timetable model ensures that all pupils will have a minimum of 10 hours of direct teaching each week. S4, who have 7 subjects, will have slightly more time in school to ensure that they have at least one “big block” of direct teaching in their chosen subjects each week.
* ALL pupils will be in school for a minimum of 2 full days each week. The pattern of attendance has been planned below (this may change subject to National / Local guidance). Pupils will attend for the full day as set out below;

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| S1 and S2 | S2 and S3 | S4 S5 S6 | S4 S5 S6 | S1 S3 and S4 |

BLENDED LEARNING

* Digital learning will be a key feature of our blended approach –pupils are being supported with devices to use when working on line at home (this work is ongoing).
* Pupils will also have support from teachers when they are not in school and when they are working / learning at home. Teachers will explain to pupils how this will work. We will share this planning with you in August.
* Teachers have invested time in training on digital platforms, Microsoft teams and Show My Homework. We will support pupils on how to make the best use of these resources.

UNIFORM

* Pupils will be in school in full school uniform (full details in the handbook which is on the website) and make use of a school bag. Our school uniform is an important part of who we are as a school. It provides a sense of pride and identity. It also supports us all to be safe and quickly recognisable.

RETURNING IN AUGUST

All staff will return on Tuesday 11th August for an in-service day. Another in-service day has been planned for Thursday September 24th. **All pupils will return on Wednesday 12th August** for their first day of school and we will communicate all arrangements for that day and that week to you prior to the school returning.

On behalf of everyone in Airdrie Academy I wish you all a safe, peaceful and enjoyable summer break and very much look forward to working with you all when schools return.

Yours Faithfully

Martin D Anderson

Headteacher