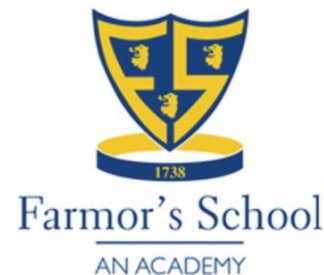


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20th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we near the half term break, I am writing to update you on various matters, but particularly the hot topic of when and how schools will begin to welcome more students back into school.

Heroes or villains?

Depending on where you get your news from, you will currently see teachers either being held up as 'heroes' or as work-shy, good-for-nothings. Of course, neither is true. We are generally hard working, quite caring people who just want to do a good job. Whilst those who should know better squabble over dates and data, we are carefully and calmly laying our plans.

We would like nothing more than to get back to normal. We know that this is some way off, so we would like to give students a little bit of normal as soon as possible.

However, we will only accept more students into school when the risks are sufficiently low and manageable. Your child's safety is our number one concern.

When will we know it is the right time to proceed?

Once the Government have confirmed it is safe enough to begin to bring more students into school, we have our own conditions which must be met. We must:

1. Be satisfied that the risk of contagion is reduced to an acceptable level for children and adults.
2. Be able to manage transportation logistics, including drop-off and pick-up arrangements.
3. Be able to provide meal options for students.
4. Have enough staff to supervise students and provide a worthwhile curriculum.
5. Be able to manage teaching alongside the requirement to provide remote education to students not in school and childcare for students entitled to be at school full time.
6. Be able to respond quickly to confirmed cases of Coronavirus to prevent spread of the disease.

We will not do anything until we are satisfied that these conditions are met. As soon as these conditions are met, we will be ready to act.

The Government keep talking about 1st June for schools to begin the first phase of recovery. As at the time of writing, we have received no clarity on what secondary schools are expected to offer and no detail about how this might be achieved. Given there are two school days until the half term break, this date looks increasingly unachievable.



All we have been told is that the Government would like secondary schools to offer 'some face-to-face support' for Year 10 and 12 students before the summer.

We must get this right, and not rush ahead unprepared. Therefore, **I can confirm that Farmor's School will not be extending in-school provision immediately after the half term break.**

I will write to you again after the half term break to let you know how our planning is progressing.

What happens in the meantime?

Firstly, we want every student (and parent if possible) to have a well-deserved break. When we return on Monday 1st June, we will re-commence the setting of work and support offered by teachers, tutors and Heads of Year.

The emergency childcare provision for children of key workers will continue as long as it is required.

If, during the time you have known us, we have gained your trust and respect, please ignore the media frenzy over the coming weeks and help us talk up schools and those who work in them. I am full of admiration for my colleagues at Farmor's School, and across the country. We'll do what is right for your children, at the right time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Evans
Headteacher