



10 September 2020

Dear All,

Welcome Back to the New School Year!

I am delighted to welcome you to the new school year at Broadstone First School or Broadstone Middle. Some of you have been with us some time and some are new to us. Either way, we are thrilled you have chosen us for your child and look forward to working with you.

Given the latest news regarding local schools and COVID 19 outbreaks, we have added a dedicated page to our websites to provide Updates, Advice and Guidance regarding any COVID 19 news and information. Any information we send about COVID 19 will also appear on the dedicated page, giving you a “one stop shop” for the things you may need to know.

There is absolutely no doubt that the last six months have been like no other. The things that are “normal” today couldn’t have been imagined this time last year – for a more light hearted, but terribly accurate summary of where we all find ourselves now, take a look at a sketch by Michael McIntyre https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEr_84HJbgk Over the Summer break, much has been done to prepare for the full opening of school. Plans and preparations have been made to make us as COVID secure as we can be. We will continually monitor these and tweak them where necessary. We really are grateful for your feedback, understanding and support.

However, essentially our focus should be **“Hands, Face, Space”**. Good respiratory cleanliness (Catch it, Bin it, Kill it), social distancing and washing and sanitising our hands regularly are the things we can all do, all the time, to help keep us, our families, friends and colleagues safe.

I think one of the most difficult things about how we are living is the inability to plan. Our response to situations as they arise is based on the behaviour of the virus. You will probably be aware that this week has brought several partial and some full school closures locally and nationally. Although this is worrying, it is perhaps inevitable because of the easing of restrictions and the increased movement of children and adults as schools have reopened and more adults have returned to work.

We have already been planning for this possibility. Should there be a need for us to close either of our schools, staff have already been preparing for supporting youngsters at home in a variety of ways. We’re working with the children here so that they are fully up to speed with how to use learning tools, should they need to be at home either due to school closure or isolation and quarantine.

There are so many scenarios that could happen. To send information out for that would overwhelm all of us and so we have taken a decision not to inundate you with masses of information about various aspects of the COVID response. Our actions will be directed by Public Health England and when these are known we will inform you. We have a wealth of leaflets and further information that we can give, send or direct you to for your specific situation and so would encourage you to get in touch, should you be directly affected by COVID.

I will be writing to you next week to tell you more about what has been going on in our schools over the Summer break which has had nothing at all to do with COVID. You’ll have noticed both schools had building works, we have opened a new provision at Middle School and there has been a load of work done inside the buildings to make learning even more enjoyable. A marvellous Summer Camp took place over the holidays. More information will be shared with you about that in due course.

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We completely understand how “tricky” life can be as we get used to a “new normal”. I don’t know about you, but in my travels locally I seem to be unable to make a move without checking with someone that it’s okay to do so! It is inevitable that we will get it wrong occasionally, but hopefully, if we all keep an eye out for each other, these mistakes will be few, far between and minor. Remember! **Hands, Face, Space!**

For now, I really wanted to say hello and send a warm welcome to you all. I also wanted to thank you all for your wonderful support over the past months. Should you have any concerns or feedback, whatsoever, please don’t hesitate to email me, Rhonda Moore on rmoores@castlemanacademytrust.co.uk or call 01202 830040.

As ever, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R Moore".

Rhonda Moore
Chief Executive Officer