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Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of a different kind of year for us all, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for how you have worked with us across these unprecedented times. It has helped us to develop and provide a meaningful and safe approach to education for your child during the Pandemic. Your time talking and/or emailing your child's tutor on a regular basis has been invaluable to help them to plan and provide effective learning opportunities and to enable the Senior Leadership Team to provide further signposting and/or support. We have used this level of communication to help guide us in making informed decisions.

I look forward to reading your feedback from parent/carer and students surveys; this will help us plan how we move forward in September with both the curriculum and our general practice in mind.

As I wrote in my last letter, we are working on a new whole school Risk Assessment based on the current guidance. It is important you are aware of changes to the start and end of day, as this is the most congested part of our school day, to reduce and provide a staggered solution. Therefore, from Monday 7th September 2020

- **If you are bringing your child in from home, their start time will be 9.15 and pick up at 3.15.**
- **If your child is on transport, their start of day will be 9.00 and their end of day will be 3.00.**

This staggered approach will not affect the teaching of the main timetable.

My concern in fully finalising the Risk Assessment before we leave for the summer break is the quick and changing nature of guidance being sent by the Government and the information needing updating again before we re-open to children from **Monday 7th September**. I want to be able to give you clear information about how the school is going to operate to reduce any possible confusion and reduce any anxiety you may have; I intend to write an updated letter, which will be available on the website from end of day on **Thursday 3rd September** with clear details. We sincerely hope Devon is not subject to a localised lockdown at any point when planning our return in September.

Transport have told us that if a child is eligible for transport, DCC will pay a parent/carer to transport their child/children to and from school from September if they wish to and are able to. I am unsure how long this arrangement will last, but in the first instance, this may give some of you piece of mind and/or some better flexibility. Their advice is to call them to talk through the details such as cost per mile etc. on 0345 155 1015.

Our students should feel proud of how they have responded to the changing expectations of home learning. For those who have enjoyed it the least, we will help settle them back in to learning routines. For those who are ready to return and carry on where they left off, we will be ready. We will spend the first few weeks identifying what progress our students have made during lockdown, for example in their independence and also if there has been any regression. We look forward to having them back with us.





I want to wish you a happy and safe socially distanced summer break. Please take the time to reflect on how the last 6 months has been for you and what great resilience you have shown.

As I said previously, I will be in touch via the website at the end of **Thursday 3rd September** and our school office is back open on **Friday 4th September** should you need to talk with anyone about the school return information.

School returns for students from Monday 7th September.

Kindest regards,

Sam Barham
Headteacher

