

Dear parents,

I am writing to you at the start of the final half term of the academic year. The break last week gave us all a chance to reflect on the last 3 months, and to look forward to what will happen next. I wanted to write to update you on the developments in the school so that everything is clear.

I am extremely grateful to the whole community for their support and teamwork in supporting our pupils since the school closed to most pupils on 20th March. Parents, staff and pupils have worked really hard to keep learning going, to support one another and find fellowship and positivity through the lockdown. I am proud of how much our pupils have been still able to grow and learn in this time, while acknowledging that it has been a very difficult time for many of our families.

Over the last few weeks the government has asked schools to prepare for a wider reopening of some year groups, as the rate of infection has significantly reduced. This gives us the chance to welcome more pupils back to KSA. We are very aware of the continued risks still posed to our community from COVID-19 and intend to do everything we possibly can to make the school as safe as possible for our pupils, parents and staff in the weeks ahead. Although many in our community will feel nervous about returning, we are here to support everyone, and help our community to remain safe.

We have continued to have a small number of vulnerable and key worker pupils on site in our Community Classroom, and I would like to pay tribute to the commitment of all the staff who have been in school at the height of the virus serving these families and the needs of our wider society.

Accessing Community Classroom Provision

If you are a key worker, your child can access our Community Classroom provision, which is now operating for Year 7-13 at the Older Years Site and Years Nursery to Year 6 at the Younger Years site. Details of the guidance on this is given [here](#). If you need your child to access this provision, please do complete [this form](#) and we will get back to you as soon as possible to confirm what we are able to offer. Providing this childcare provision safely and securely for children and staff requires careful planning, so please do try to give us as much notice as possible that you may wish to use it.

Wider opening of the school - Primary

Over half term, we had confirmation from the government to open more widely to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, and also to prepare for some on site provision for Year 10 and 12. We have undertaken a detailed risk assessment about the wider opening which has been supported by the Health and Safety experts at Ark, signed off by the Ark Board and which the Local Governing Body have also given feedback on.

All the schools plans to keep everyone safe are based on the detailed guidance the government has issued, which can be read here:

[Link to Government Guidance to schools regarding to wider opening](#)

Over the last two days, primary staff were trained on how to ensure we make the school as safe as possible for staff, children and the wider community, as well as maintaining everyone's well-being and the highest possible standard of education. We are excited to welcome back these pupils over the next few days. Today, Wednesday 5th June we will therefore begin to welcome back children in Nursery (at YYS), and Year 6 (at OYS), with Reception returning on Thursday and Year 1 on Friday.

There are some families in these returning year groups who have said that they are not yet ready to return to school. We respect each family's decision. We hope that these families will

see and hear about the significant commitment that has been made to ensuring a safe environment, and will grow in confidence to send back your children in the weeks ahead. These parents will be sent a new form on Friday 5th June, due back by Tuesday 9th to give their intentions about starting on Monday 15th June. We hope many more pupils will join on this date.

Our pupils in Years 2-5 will continue to benefit from a team of teachers who will be focusing exclusively on remote learning. We hope and expect the excellent work that has been taking place in these year groups to continue. All the information is provided [here](#). We also hope these parents and pupils will be reassured by what is happening in school now so that they can look forward to a safe and calm return to school in the autumn.

The government has issued full guidance to parents about the wider opening, which can be found here:

[Link to government guidance on wider opening of schools for parents](#)

Wider opening of the school - Secondary

We wrote to Year 10 and 12 parents just before half term asking about parents willingness to send their children back to school from a provisional date of the 8th June. Since then, the government has updated the guidance to make clear this provision should start from 15th June. The government's guidance is available [here](#). The majority of the parents who responded said they would like their child to return. The government has given further guidance as to how this onsite provision should be delivered. We will now continue planning, with the intention to have a form of on site provision from 15th June. We will contact Year 10 and Year 12 parents at the start of next week (by Wednesday 10th June) to explain the provision and ask them to make a commitment to attending if they are able to. This provision will be to supplement, not replace online learning. Online learning will remain the main way pupils will learn.

For other secondary year groups our remote online provision will continue. All information on this provision is provided [here](#). We have been impressed by the independence and maturity of our secondary pupils in the ability to learn through remote technology and are confident that they are making progress. We will look forward to seeing these pupils onsite in the autumn.

Staffing update

Beth Humphreys, Associate Principal has shared the news with the primary community that she is pregnant, and plans to go on maternity leave just after the start of the next academic year. Katarine Deeks will be leading the primary school from September until Ms Humphreys returns later on in the academic year. I am confident that Ms Deeks and the strong team of leaders she has around her will continue to drive KSA Primary forward.

I have been grateful to the messages of support and encouragement that parents have sent to the staff and to me personally during this time. I have always felt privileged to lead King Solomon Academy, but never more so than now, as I see the shared commitment - even through these difficult times - that we all have to making the best possible futures for our pupils.

Thank you for your support,

Max Haimendorf
Principal