



LO/JT/726

25 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to begin by thanking parents, students and staff for the combined efforts to make the first few weeks of term the success they have been. I appreciate the support that school is receiving and the calm, cautious and collective approach the school community is taking at this time. As a school we are striving to ensure that:

- School is as safe as possible for staff and students and that systems and structures will limit the impact of any potential Covid cases
- Within this context students have the most normal experience possible, enjoying being in school and benefiting from high quality teaching

Across the school, students are continuing to thrive and have adapted really well to the additional safety measures we have in place.

IMPORTANT: Students showing signs of illness

Thank you for the support you are showing the school as we try hard to operate in difficult conditions.

We would urge all parents and carers to be vigilant of the Coronavirus symptoms:

- A new continuous cough
- High temperature
- A loss or change to your sense of taste or smell

Anyone with symptoms, however mild, must not come into school and you should arrange a Coronavirus test as soon as possible by calling 119 or visiting: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-acoronavirus-test>.

Attendance

The last few weeks have shown very clearly the benefit to our students of returning to school. It is wonderful to see them learning, smiling and socialising again. We recognise that sending your child to school can be worrying at the moment, but must stress:

- We are doing everything we can to minimise the risks of COVID-19 within the school and the local community
- If we do unfortunately have a case, our prime concern will be the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our school community.
- Your child is benefiting from being back at school, not just academically, but socially and mentally. We are doing everything we possibly can to support them.
- Students who are not in school, will find the return harder and potentially will suffer more in the long run.

Making the decision if your child should attend school is difficult at the moment. The easy method is to ask yourself, would you have 'pre-COVID' sent your child to school if they had a cold or felt under the weather. If so, they should be attending. Working out the difference between a normal cold and COVID is worrying many of our parents. The BBC has made a very helpful article entitled 'Covid symptoms: Is it a cold, flu or coronavirus?' (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299>) It is not unexpected that we will all have a cough over the next few months, so correctly identifying the difference between the common cold and COVID is very important.

We do ask that:

- If your child has COVID symptoms, they stay at home, get a test and you inform the school.
- If you are worried and anxious about sending your child to school, you are honest and speak to your child's Head of Year. We understand your concerns and it is easier to help if you talk to us.
- If your child is absent for any reason, you must contact school every day by 8.30am unless you have been given a pre-determined time frame for absence

Control Measures

In terms of the control measures school has put in place to ensure we are COVID Secure, I am confident these are strong and robust. These include the zoning of school, extensive hand washing and sanitising, monitoring movement between lessons, staggering start and departure to the day and ensuring that all specialist classrooms are timetabled with sufficient time to clean thoroughly between uses.

Bad weather looming – wear your coat!

We have been blessed with good weather so far. But before long, the autumnal wind and rain will arrive. The safest place for children to enjoy break and lunchtime is outside even if it is raining. So, please keep an eye on the weather daily and ensure your child wears a coat to school.

Visiting school

To prevent the spread of the virus, we request that parents and carers make an appointment after school if they want to meet a member of staff. We are restricting the number of visitors allowed on site to emergencies only. The best way to communicate with staff is via email, telephone call or MS Teams. Face to face meetings can only take place after school. We are keen to maintain high quality communications with our families and I hope you understand that these restrictions are purely due to the pandemic and attempting to limit the spread of the virus.

Should you need to contact us, our details are overleaf:

Year Leaders

Year 7	Mrs McDowall – Amanda.McDowall@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk
Year 8	Miss Waters – Eliza.Waters@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk
Year 9	Miss Scott – Jade.Scott@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk
Year 10	Miss Meredith – Katie.Meredith@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk
Year 11	Mrs Harkin – Trish.Harkin@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk

Other updates

Staffing

I would like to welcome the following members of staff to Blessed Robert Sutton:

- Miss Helen James Curriculum Leader for Science

I would also like to congratulate the following members of staff who have new posts at the school:

- Mr Wayne Gee Assistant Headteacher – Teaching & Learning Standards
- Mr Jake Heath Assistant Headteacher – Behaviour and Ethos
- Miss Eliza Waters Year Leader – Year 8

Annual Consent Form

Enclosed is a copy of our Annual Consent Form, please complete and return to your child's Form Tutor as soon as possible.

Virtual Open Evening

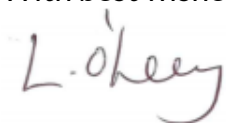
To finish, I would like to tell you about an extremely important date. Our Open Evening will be held on Wednesday 30th September online. We believe that an online event is the safest way to ensure our community finds out about our school. The event will begin at 6.30 pm and will include a live presentation from the Acting Headteacher, a discussion panel including key staff and students and access to a fantastic virtual tour of our school.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions at the end. Those interested will need to sign up in advance to receive a link - more details of this are available via our website.

I really look forward to having prospective students and parents seeing all that our wonderful school has to offer.

We wish all our families a safe and relaxing weekend.

With best wishes



Laura O'Leary
Acting Headteacher
Enc.