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Dear Tallis family,

It is nice to see you again, as it were. What a summer it has been, no? It seemed obvious that the Centre-Assessed Grades were the only way of generating reasonably reliable results this year – such a shame that so much time, public money and anguish was spent on trying to avoid using schools' judgement before the inevitable climb-down. I hope that future decisions will be made in a better way. It will be lovely to have the children back with us and to welcome new ones. We are focusing on the things we usually value the most: an exciting curriculum in a happy community.

1. Anyway, for new readers, this weekly email will probably flop into your inbox on Wednesdays (sorry it is already late). It is the successor to the Tuesday and Friday emails I sent out during closure. It will contain practical messages about what is happening. I'll also carry on with the weekly update in the newsletter and my fortnightly blog. Do nudge me if you think that there are things I haven't told you enough about.
2. We have a new Deputy Head for all aspects of pastoral care, behaviour and inclusion. He is Mr Malik and has come to us from Kensington Aldridge, the school next to Grenfell Tower. His email is, of course, bmalik@thomastallis.org.uk
3. We have a range of new processes to keep everyone safe through these virus times. I'm not going into huge detail here but just giving you the headlines. The children will learn what we need very quickly.
 - a. Our basic group is the year group and we will do everything we can to keep year groups apart.
 - b. Children will learn about their gates, zones and the new rules for moving around as soon as they arrive. They must return to their zones at all non-lesson times.
 - c. The external gates for entry and exit are clearly labelled as follows:
 - Year 7 use the usual student gate just south of the main entrance
 - Year 8 use the south entrance nearest Aldi
 - Year 9 use the community pedestrian gate at the north of the site opposite St John Fisher church
 - Year 10 use the usual student gate just south of the main entrance (at different times to year 7)
 - Year 11 use the south entrance nearest Aldi
 - Year 12 and 13 come through the main entranceEveryone will get a nice A5 card map to help them.
 - d. We want children to wear masks, please, at transition times and in crowded areas. Please send them with one and talk to them about the safe way to wear it? We will also do that and keep a supply in school.
 - e. We will not be opening the changing rooms for PE or dance as we cannot possibly distance within them. Therefore, children should come to school in their PE kit on days when they have

inquisitive • collaborative • persistent • disciplined • imaginative

those lessons. They should wear it instead of or under their uniform as far as is possible or practical! No random clothing please – a combination of uniform and PE kit will be acceptable on those days.

- f. Our behaviour expectations remain the same, so we expect all of our young people to be kind and respectful and to follow all instructions.
 - g. Children must come fully equipped please. We cannot loan equipment.
 - h. Water fountains will be turned off, I am afraid. Please send your child with a bottle of drinking water. It can be refilled in the dining room at lunchtime only.
 - i. I’m sorry to say that we can’t manage the canteen service at break, so if your child is likely to be peckish then, please send a snack. A limited breakfast service will be available, as well as lunch.
4. This is how term will start, so we can train each year group in what they must do and where they may go

	All day	Late start
Fri 4 September	Y7 0840 to their zone Y12 to assembly at 0930	
Mon 7 September	Y11 0840 to their zone Y13 0840 to tutor	Y7 1120 to their zone Y12 1120 to lesson 3
Tues 8 September	Y8 0850 to their zone Y9 0840 to their zone Y10 0840 to their zone	Y7 1120 to their zone Y11 1120 to their zone Y12 to lesson 3 by 1120 Y13 to lesson 3 by 1120
Weds 9 September	All year groups in full-time	

- a. We will stagger arrival and dismissal times by taking away some registration time. We’ll do this as long as the current guidance stands.

Year	Start	Finish
7	0840	1505
8	0850	1505
9	0840	1515
10	0850	1515
11	0840	1515
12 and 13	0900	1505

5. Here is the *‘latest DfE guidance for parents on [what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak.](#)*’ I believe that the key changes are:
- Updated information on **face coverings**, in line with the new [guidance on face coverings](#) published last week.

- Clarification that if **schools and parents disagree** over whether a child with symptoms of Covid-19 can attend school, school can refuse to allow the child to attend until they have had a negative test.
- A section on **transport**, including the [guidance on transport for local authorities](#).
- Clarification that, as shielding advice has paused except in some areas with local restrictions, all **previously shielding children should return to school** unless they have received personal clinical advice not to.
- An updated section on **behaviour**, setting out what schools are encouraged and permitted to do to take into account both the difficult experiences of the last few months, and the likely need for new hygiene rules.
- A hint that the modified local authority duties on about children with **EHC plans** will end on 25 September
Enjoy!

6. The most important thing, however, is attendance. Please send your children to school. If you are worried about any aspect of safety, just contact us. Head of Year is usually the best place to start.
7. We believe that some of you have had trouble with our uniform suppliers. Please let us know if this is going to affect your child – and if it does please send them in the most uniform you can manage, with a note!
8. I hope that none of our young people will catch the virus, but you will want to be assured of our plans. I attach the guidance for staff for your information, and a handout which will be given to the parents or carers of any child showing Covid symptoms. The child would need collecting from school immediately, and taken for a test.
9. It is therefore very important that parents and carers are easily contactable. If your best contact numbers need updating will you please email us at covid19@thomastallis.org.uk
10. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Danny Thorpe has published the attached letter for all parents and carers.
11. There are important messages from TfL at tfl.gov.uk/reopeningeducation.
12. I attach our most up-to-date CV-19 Risk Assessment, if you would like to read it.

Phew! All this will become much clearer as the days unfold and we will keep you informed.

Yours

Carolyn Roberts