

ATTENDANCE FOR PUPILS RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming **ALL** year groups back to school in September and are currently making careful plans and preparations in order to ensure that your child will be as safe as possible on their return. We are continuing to work closely within our Trust and alongside the Local Authority to ensure we have robust risk assessments and procedures in place, all following the latest government guidance released last week.

Once finalised with Trustees, the school will share with you detailed information on September arrangements, including the measures we are putting in place to support your child when they return.

Now that circumstances have changed it is vital that children return to school so that we can minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, well-being and wider development.

Any further absences away from the classroom will risk pupils falling further behind. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achievement.

School attendance will therefore be mandatory once again in September. This means that from September the usual rules will apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are compulsory school age*
- *schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, resulting in prosecution for poor school attendance*

We recognise that some parents and pupils may feel anxious and worried about their return and in addition to the guidance we will be sharing in the coming weeks, we will work closely with families to support you with their return to school.

If you have any worries or concerns or your child feels anxious about returning to school please contact the school on receipt of this letter or alternatively below on:

welfare@penkethhigh.org and we shall respond to you directly in support.

Further information on attendance can be found on the school website and from the recent Government guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

I wish you all a safe and happy summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Your sincerely

Mrs Lomax