

September 2020



SIR JAMES SMITH'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/carer

Next week will see the first important steps being taken in what we all hope will be a smooth and steady return to normal life across the country as children return to school. It would be perfectly understandable if the headlines in the press about exam results and changes to Government policy and guidance (the latest Government guidance for parents/carers can be found [here](#)) left you feeling confused and anxious about the start of term. Please rest assured that the plans we have for safely welcoming pupils back to SJS haven't changed since you helped the school produce them at the end of the summer term back in July (please click [here](#) to see the SJS webpage with all of the information you need to know regarding the start of term).

Staff here have been working hard to make sure everything is ready and our staggered start to the school year means that everybody will be able to do their part to make the return to school as smooth and steady as possible for all. Our staggered start to term means that:

- **Monday 7 September** – only pupils in Years 8 and 9 will be in school.
- **Tuesday 8 September and Wednesday 9 September** – only pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be in school.
- **Thursday 10 September** – all pupils will be in school.

Your help in making sure that your child is organised is going to be crucial. As you know, there won't be any access to lockers in school so getting organised each evening for the next school day is really going to matter and I thank you in advance for your support with this.

In an update for those pupils who will be travelling to school by bus; the school has been informed that these will all be dedicated services now which means that there won't be any members of the public travelling on the same bus. One addition to the equipment list recommended on our website for those pupils travelling by bus would be a re-sealable plastic bag (freezer bag or similar) to store the facemask in that you are going to need to wear whilst travelling on the bus.

If, whilst getting organised this week, you find that you've misplaced your child's timetable which was posted out at the start of the summer holiday please don't worry, another copy of that same timetable will be given to your child next week. Pupils return to school on Week B of the timetable.

As ever, if you have any questions that you can't find answers to on our website, please contact the school in the usual way and I together with all the staff of SJS look forward to welcoming your child back next week.

Yours faithfully

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Headteacher

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