



Friday 27th August 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope you and your families have had a restful summer break. We are looking forward to the new academic year ahead, to welcoming everyone back to SRS next week as well as welcoming our new EYFS, Year 7 and Year 12 students who start their journey with us.

I am pleased to be able to confirm the arrangements for the start of term will be as follows:

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| September 2021 – start of term arrangements | |
| Wednesday 1 st September – school closed to pupils (Staff INSET day) | |
| Thursday 2nd September - Primary: Y1 to Y6 | |
| 8.30am | School gate (Parsloes Avenue entrance) opens |
| 8:55am | School starts, registration |
| 3.00pm | End of school day (parents to enter the playground via the Parsloes Avenue entrance) <i>EYFS transition meetings begin – details sent to parents directly.</i> |
| Thursday 2nd September - Secondary: Y7 to Y13 | |
| <i>Students enter school via the Sports Hall at their designated time for lateral flow testing at the times below:</i> | |
| 8.00am | Y7 |
| 9.00am | Y12 & Y13 |
| 9.30am | Y8 |
| 11.00am | Y9 |
| 11.45am | Y10 |
| 12.30pm | Y11 |
| 2.50pm | Dismissal – Y7 |
| 3.00pm | Dismissal Y8 to Y13 |
| Friday 3rd September – normal school day for all students | |
| Primary – gate opens from 8.30am, registration at 8.55am | |
| Secondary – school open for students to arrive for breakfast from 7.30am, registration at 8.40am | |

Lateral Flow Testing

As required by government, for secondary-age students we will conduct two on-site lateral flow tests as students return to school. Parents of children who are joining Year 7 in September should have received

an online consent form. Please contact office@sydneyrussellschool.com if you have a child who is joining Year 7 but you have not received this consent form. We will also provide students with additional home testing kits which we urge you to continue to do twice weekly until further notice (we are anticipating a government review of Covid safety measures for schools at the end of September and will update you accordingly).

Covid safety measures

Our key measures, in line with guidance, focus on **effective hygiene procedures** and **good ventilation**. We will be maintaining our one-way systems to maximise space, we have hand hygiene stations across both school sites in every classroom and entry/exit points and we will enhance ventilation with windows and doors open as much as possible.

At this stage **face coverings** are not required on site however secondary students may wish to wear a mask in communal areas and they will be free to do so. Secondary school students who travel on public transport will still be required to wear a mask (<https://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/face-coverings>) and it is possible that we may need to re-introduce masks in school (dependant on the evolving local context) therefore we recommend all secondary students carry a face mask with them.

In the event of a student or staff member testing positive for Covid, in most cases those who have been close contacts will no longer be routinely required to self-isolate however, they may be required to take a PCR test – we will inform you if this is the case. We therefore do not expect to see large groups of students being sent home for isolation and remote learning.

In the event of a student testing positive for Covid, it is vital that you inform the school as soon as possible by calling 0203 959 9900. Once we are informed, remote learning will begin on the following school day (details for this are available on the school website).

We will continue to follow government guidance and liaise with Public Health England as we monitor any positive cases and work to keep the school open for all.

Day-to-day life at SRS

We are looking forward to our young people being able to benefit from all the resources, facilities, learning and personal development experiences that Sydney Russell School has to offer. We will be getting back to our full range of practical learning activities, assemblies, awards events, concerts, performances, competitions and sports events and we look forward to welcoming you, parents, carers and family members, back into the school for many of these opportunities so that you can share in your child's learning and re-familiarise yourselves with the school again.

Primary pupils will continue to wear their PE kit (see uniform list on the website) on their allocated PE day (details of this will be provided on the first day back) however **secondary students will attend school in full school uniform every day** and will have use of the changing rooms to change into their PE kit (see uniform list) for PE lessons.

As the new academic year begins, we will be introducing a regular school newsletter (in addition to the weekly primary newsletter) to keep you up-to-date on school information and events – please ensure we have the SIMS Parent App and provide us with your most up-to-date mobile number and email address to ensure you receive key messages and reminders.

We will continue to monitor and review the situation and follow guidelines to ensure our school community is as safe as possible, enabling us all to focus on our priority – the education of our young people. Whilst there are undoubtedly some uncertainties about the term ahead, we endeavour to deliver learning experiences for your child which will be as ‘near normal’ as possible. Our staff are on hand to ensure they settle back into school routines well and have a happy and successful year at school. I thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clare Cross', written in a cursive style.

Clare Cross

Acting Principal