



Backwell School

A National Teaching School

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Headteacher: Jon Nunes MA

18 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The reopening of the School follows months of careful planning and preparation. At the heart of everything we have designed is the need to keep students and staff safe whilst delivering meaningful and empowering education.

Thank you for the many positive messages you have sent us over the past few weeks, they are much appreciated, and please do continue to feedback any ideas you may have.

Contrary to popular belief, we are not receiving additional funding from the government with which to purchase new equipment and supplies for operating the school during the pandemic. Only schools in financial deficit were able to access a fund set up for this purpose, but the claimable items were very limited and Backwell is not in a deficit position due to careful management of our budget over recent years.

Essential Covid-19 purchases we have had to make so far include:

- Hand sanitiser and over 200 dispensers
- Specialised cleaning equipment
- Perspex screens in classrooms, offices and canteens
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Reusable face masks for students who have forgotten theirs
- Spare stationery for students who have forgotten theirs
- Outdoor markings and barriers
- Structural changes to canteen spaces
- Groundwork to turn outdoor spaces into year group bubble areas

In order to respond to some parental and student feedback we would like to be able to explore further options such as:

- Outdoor marquees and/or canopies
- Additional bike storage
- Additional outdoor seating for students
- Further changes to fire muster points
- Water fountains

Under normal circumstances the Backwell School Association (BSA) would help raise extra money for the school through their wonderful fundraising activities. However, due to COVID-19 they have not been able to run any events since March, and they are not able to do so for the foreseeable future. We would also gain a small additional income from letting out school facilities, however these have also had to be halted in the main because of Covid-19.

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Therefore, we are asking parents and carers if they would be able make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school. We are suggesting £10 per student, but any amount would be gratefully received, and put to use improving the on-site experience (and safety) for our students. This will be added to ParentPay accounts shortly.

We understand that the pandemic has negatively impacted some of our families financially so we do understand that this might not be possible in all cases. We are very grateful for any donations you might be able to make – it really will make a huge difference to the school.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Nunes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher