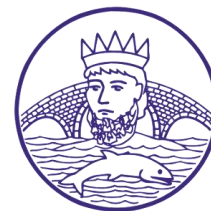


# King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

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2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Return to school in September

As you will be aware, the government are currently announcing plans for the return to school in September. Initial guidance for schools was published today and we anticipate this is likely to continue to be revised over the coming weeks and throughout the summer break. Whilst we have not yet had sufficient time to process the detail, we are expecting to be opening to all pupils, with additional measures in place to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19. We are currently working on draft plans.

It is a very tricky time for everyone and it is hard to plan when there are so many unknowns, however, please be aware that any travel plans including quarantine periods need to fall within the school holiday period so that children can return **on time** for the start of the school year. The new guidance makes it clear that school attendance will return to being mandatory from the autumn term and the usual rules on school attendance will therefore apply. We are not able to authorise absence for holidays, or quarantine periods arising from travel, and it is more important than ever that the children have a prompt and settled start to their first proper schooling in many months. We are unaware of the government giving any flexibility in the statutory requirement to attend school every day and as usual, extended or rescheduled holidays, including quarantine, cannot be authorised. The only exception to this may be if there were to be a change in regulations to reintroduce stricter regulations whilst a family were away (for example the introduction of a 'lockdown' in the country travelled to, or new travel restrictions imposed during your stay).

I know you will be as keen as we are to start the new year well and will be keeping up to date with all the government travel advice as new announcements are made. We are so looking forward to seeing you all again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Newton".

Emily Newton

Headteacher