



# Alameda Middle School

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12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **Weekly Update**

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that this letter finds you, your families and loved ones safe and healthy.

For most students, this will remain a term of learning at home, with all of the challenges that this brings. We remain committed to facilitating a remote education in as an effective way as possible.

We are proud of how our year 6 pupils in school have adapted brilliantly, as the school has partially reopened. The staff have worked tirelessly to make this new way of working sustainable and comfortable, whilst following the protocols and guidance on social distancing and other protective measures. Our priority has been everyone's well-being, creating a sense of belonging, enjoyment of being with peers and teachers, whilst learning together and rebuilding bonds.

As a Senior Leader at Alameda, I am humbled by the positivity and empathy of our parents, students and staff, as we all work through this situation, which is new to us all.

## **Activities to support home learning**

### **Google Classroom.**

Here is a reminder of how you can access the user guide.

<http://www.alamedamiddleschool.org.uk/page/default.asp?pid=216>.

Support can be gained by contacting us at [ithelp@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk](mailto:ithelp@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk).

We continue to work on how we continue to improve the activities we are setting and also how we communicate with the children who are still at home. While we also have the year six pupils and those in our key worker group in school and so our capacity is limited, we are still trying to work on this as we know how important it is to think about our whole school community.

We will be in touch with everyone who is not accessing Google Classroom to work with you on how we can support you with this. Paper copies of work are also available.

### **Years 5, 7 and 8**

You will be aware of the recent government announcement that there has been a u-turn around the ambition to enable all primary pupils to return before the summer. Obviously, we are devastated not to be able to see our whole community return, and are aware that the decision to prioritise year 6 was not necessarily right in a three tier area.

We must be honest and make it clear that while the current guidelines are in place, we are at capacity at present with year 6 and our key workers in school. We are working closely with other local schools and considering options for some sort of contact or inclusion of other year groups, particularly year 8 before they move on to upper school.

Those of you with children in year 4 at lower school will have received some information from us already about transition. More information will follow in the next few weeks.

### **Requesting a Key Worker Place**

If you are a key worker and have no alternative childcare for your child, particularly now as we understand some people are returning to work, you can request a place at school.

To do this, please email [office@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk](mailto:office@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk)

We ask that you provide the following information in your email:

1. Your name and the names and year groups of pupils requiring a place/places
2. The days that places will be required
3. Details of your key worker role – your job title and place of work
4. A named person (ideally a line manager) at your place of work that we can contact if necessary.

We are really keen to ensure that all key workers are supported and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your contribution throughout this – whether front line NHS or providing essential services elsewhere.

### **Keeping Warm – no blankets please**

Some pupils have said they felt cold this week while in school; this may be partly due to the need to keep more doors open and also due to the change in weather. We apologise for this and have amended our plans so that we can close more doors. We ask, however, that pupils do not bring blankets into school. Of course, we are flexible over uniform at the moment and encourage warm layers if necessary. The heating is also now on when needed.

### **Year 8 Music Transition to Redborne**

Redborne music department have issued a letter, which is coming to year 8 via a group call today. They are looking for numbers of students who intend to take up a new instrument, continue with their present musical instrument, or wish to cancel having lessons in September.

There are further details in the letter, but all correspondence should be emailed to the head of music, Jonathan Price [stjprice@redborne.com](mailto:stjprice@redborne.com).

### **And finally**

Although normality seems to be some way in the distance, we remain committed to providing the best education possible, in the safest way. Thank you as always for your feedback, continued support and contribution to the Alameda community over the last few weeks of the academic year, which I think we will never forget – it has been helpful, encouraging and reassuring.

Yours sincerely



Donna Leonard  
Senior Leader