

March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

All children to return to school from Monday 8 March 2021

I hope you and your family are well.

This letter contains **important** information about the **full re-opening of school** which you need to know.

The Prime Minister has now formally announced that **ALL PUPILS** must return to school on a full-time basis from **Monday 8 March 2021**. Parental guidance from the Department for Education has been updated and can be viewed here [guidance](#).

The Trust and its schools have received updated government guidance on how to manage this and ensure children and staff can start to learn together again in a safe and covid-19 secure way. We have a revised **system of safety controls** which we will implement to ensure all precautionary measures are in place prior to school re-opening and these will be kept under regular review as we go forwards.

The government is clear that **full attendance is now mandatory** for all pupils except those who have been advised to continue to shield because they are clinically extremely vulnerable.

Helping to create an even safer school environment

When schools re-open we will continue with the strict measures the Trust put in place before the latest lockdown period and would be grateful if you could remind your child of these. They will be reviewed at the end of March:

- Frequent handwashing and hand sanitising.
- Promote and support 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' respiratory hygiene habits.
- Enhanced cleaning of surfaces and frequent touch points.
- Classes operate as *bubbles*.
- Staggered break and dinner times – dinners served in classroom bubbles.
- Pupils seated side-by-side and facing forwards where this is age appropriate (KS1 and KS2).
- Adults to maintain 2m physical distancing wherever possible.
- Adults to wear a face covering outside of their own bubble in communal areas where physical distancing from other adults by 2m cannot be maintained.
- Parents and school staff to wear face coverings at the school gates.
- Well ventilated classrooms – children should wear additional layers of clothing. Children are to wear their school uniform.
- No visitors to school without prior authorisation.

In addition to the above, we are now:

- Implementing a twice weekly asymptomatic home testing programme for all staff. This will help us to identify people who may be likely to spread the virus and will help to prevent transmission of the virus in school.

Curriculum and learning

First of all, thank you for all the commitment and hard work you have put into supporting your child with home learning. We do not underestimate how challenging this has been when juggling around other commitments. We are exceptionally grateful for your help and support.

Government is very keen to ensure that all children are able to *catch up* quickly with any learning they may have missed due to the pandemic. We will make sure this is managed sensitively and also allows time for children to reconnect with friends, feel safe and enjoy the routine of school life after so long away from the classroom.

We will also work quickly to identify gaps in phonics, reading, writing and mathematics and will modify the curriculum to support any interventions that may be needed, whilst still providing a breadth of wider learning opportunities. PE, art and music will continue as usual and we ask that children come in in their PE kits on their PE days. As the weather improves we will prioritise time outdoors and plan outdoor activities for all age groups. We will ensure that you are briefed about your child's progress and will retain a remote education offer for any children who may need to self-isolate further over the coming weeks.

Your school will be communicating with more specific arrangements for your child's return over the next week. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or queries about your child and their learning, please do not hesitate to contact your school. We are always here to help you. Please do make contact if you are at all anxious about your child returning to school so that we are able to reassure you that all safety measures are in place.

The health and wellbeing of every child and member of staff remains our number one priority.

I want to finish by reaffirming that your school will do everything in its power to ensure all children are safe. I believe that the measures outlined above are robust, well-planned and will provide a welcoming and safe environment for your child to return to.

We are certainly looking forward to seeing them again!

Kindest regards,



Robert Bowater
Trust CEO