

Friday 5th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we prepare for the reopening of our schools to all pupils and the varied feelings and expectations that brings, I would like to thank you for all you have done to support your child's learning during this lockdown period.

We are thrilled to be planning for the return to school for all pupils on Monday, 8th March 2021 and delighted that the Government believes it is now safe to do so. We have seen the number of positive cases of Covid-19 decline over the last few weeks and we believe we are in a really strong position to safely reopen our schools. We have robust risk assessments in place for pupils, twice weekly lateral flow testing for staff and many staff with underlying health conditions have now been vaccinated.

Your child should return to school next week, unless they have been required to self-isolate owing to close contact with a confirmed Covid sufferer, or you have received a letter stating that your child is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV.) If this is the case for you, please make sure that your school is aware of this and we will continue to support you with access to remote learning.

Covid-19 risk assessment

It remains extremely important that parents continue to inform the school if anyone in their household tests positive or shows symptoms of Covid-19. In both instances your child and household bubble should follow self-isolation guidance and not attend school. Close contacts of a pupil in school who tests positive will have to self-isolate and we are keen to minimise this as much as possible so we ask parents to please follow these guidelines carefully.

Other key reminders:

- Face masks are not expected to be worn by children in primary schools.
- Children must wash or sanitize their hands on entry to school and regularly throughout the day
- Social distancing will remain in place
- A one-way system where possible will remain in place
- Primary school settings will not be carrying out lateral flow testing on pupils, however, primary children and their families are now eligible for LFD's which can be booked through a local test site, by collecting a home test kit from a test site or ordering a home test kit online. Go to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

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School Rules

It will be important to re-establish school rules and routines as is the case at the beginning of every term and an extended period away from school. Rules and routines help ease anxieties by taking out uncertainty and re-establishing the familiarity of school life. You can support your child by asking them questions about their school rules and what these rules look like inside school.

Be Safe -What does it look like to Be Safe in school?

Pupils should respond with some of the following: washing hands, remaining in bubbles, following the one-way system around school, lining up with spaces between friends, playing non-contact games outdoors, catch it bin it kill it, not sharing equipment, leaving bikes and scooters in the designated areas, not sharing food, telling an adult if something is unsafe, not coming to school with a temperature/ persistent cough, keeping equipment tidy.

Our school staff will continue to work with all pupils to support their well-being and help them make the best educational progress possible. We understand that some of you may be anxious about sending your children back to school, particularly if there is a CEV person living in your household. I would like to reassure you that we will continue to do everything we can to make sure schools are the safest places they can possibly be, for children and members of staff. If you have any outstanding concerns, please do get in touch with your child's school where you will receive the support and guidance required.

Yours faithfully,



Sulina Piesse, Chief Executive Officer, ODBST

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