

5th March 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We look forward very much to welcoming our children back next week.

The recent weeks have been challenging for all of us – our children, parents/ carers and staff - but I have been extremely proud of the way that everyone has risen to the challenges of lockdown. I want to sincerely thank you for all your support and hard work in making the most of a very difficult situation. We look forward now to children returning and seeing them again in our tutor groups and classrooms.

I know that many children will be excited about returning, and some may be feeling anxious. School remains as safe as possible a place to be and all the measures that we had in place in the autumn term to ensure this, not only remain in place but have been further enhanced with additional measures. However, we will continue to rely on all members of the school community to play their part in following the procedures we have in place to keep both themselves and others safe.

Starting back date for all

I want to say thank you to all the parents/ carers of children in KS3 for your support, enabling us to carry out early lateral flow testing to enable all children to start back school on Monday 8th March 2021. I wanted to maximise upon this opportunity to carry out Test 1 earlier than the 08.03.2021, as I felt that enough learning time had been missed- we just wanted all our children to be back where they belong as soon as we could. This means that Test 2 will be carried out on Monday 8th March 2021 and Test 3 will be carried out on Thursday 11th March 2021 with children being talked through each stage of the testing procedure to enable him/ her to do this test himself/ herself at home from week commencing 15th March 2021. Everyone who has been tested (using a nasal swab technique only), took it in their stride and we are incredibly proud of them all.

The government has stipulated that children of primary school age (and below), in our case children in years 5 and 6, without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. We are therefore grateful for your support in getting our children in KS3 into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives as this will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Getting ready to return

From Monday, teachers will be delivering live lessons face-to-face in classrooms so live lessons will not be delivered via Microsoft Teams. All teachers teach using plans and resources that they have uploaded on the ITS Learning Platform, our VLE. This means that in the event of any child having to self-isolate in the future, work will be available on the VLE for children to access and complete, liaising with teachers to respond to feedback. With teachers

returning to teaching in the classroom, this also means that online support during the school day will be more limited however, children will be able to liaise with their teachers and arrange for support outside of lessons as needed.



Please make sure that your child has correct school uniform and brings a coat. I appreciate that some uniform may be getting small - please make use of Stevensons online ordering service if needed. There should not be any extremes of hair colour and no jewellery, other than small earring studs, should be worn. We want to be able to welcome our children back without the need to raise concerns around uniform irregularities and so we would greatly value your continued support.

A transition day has been arranged on Monday the 8th March 2021 to settle the children back into their school routines and re-establish our COVID risk assessment protocols. As a result, all children should attend school in their school uniform and not their PE kit.

I will be holding a virtual assembly first thing on Monday morning to talk about what children can expect on their return this term.

What will happen on arrival?

All children on arrival should go to their tutor room where they will sit in a designated seating place. They will be welcomed by their tutor and remain in their tutor group to complete a series of transition activities with a focus on supporting their mental health and wellbeing. The following day, Tuesday 9th March 2021, the school timetable will resume as normal.

Staggered Times

As a gentle reminder, with separate school entrances for children in KS2 and KS3, our staggered start of day and end of day timings to ensure that children stay in their year hubs are as follows:

Year	Morning Drop off Time	End of Day Pick Up Time
5	08.15	15.15
6	08.25	15.25
7	08.25	15.25
8	08.35	15.35

Face coverings in school

Last term we were impressed at the way all children in KS3 wore face coverings in corridors and communal areas - another way in which we are all demonstrating our concern for others in a practical way. You will know that this has now been extended to classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained. Since I wrote last week government guidance has been updated again on this matter.

We recommend that in those settings where pupils and students in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

We are recommending these additional precautionary measures for a limited time during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community. These measures will be reviewed at Easter.



Whilst I must make clear therefore that wearing a face covering in class is not a legal requirement it remains a very strong recommendation which we will continue to make (unless a child falls within one of the Government's medical exemption categories). When teaching staff are able to maintain a 2m distance from their pupils they will not be required to wear a face covering to enable more effective teaching to take place.

(The wearing of face coverings for children in KS2 remains optional.)

Face coverings on school and public transport are required unless medical exemptions apply.

We rely on children's and parents'/ carers' continued support in this matter.

School Lunches from Monday 8th March - served in Year Group Hubs

Our school meal provision will restart on your child's return to school and children will eat lunch in year group hubs on a staggered lunch/ playtime rota.

Hot meals will be available to all children from Monday. There will be a two-week meal programme serving a meat/vegetarian choice with desserts and drinks. There will also be filled rolls available and the price list is as follows:

Hot meal - £2.40

Dessert - 60p

Filled roll - £1.20

Flavoured water/fruit juice - 60p

Milk Drinks - 50p

Plain bottled water - 50p

The canteen will not be available at morning break and so we would be grateful if you could send your child into school with a healthy snack and water in a named water bottle. If your child is bringing money into school to pay for lunch, please make sure that they have it in a named purse/wallet. If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal they will only need to provide their name at the canteen when collecting their meal.

Stationery Packs

As for the Autumn term, please can we remind you that your child will require their own stationery, e.g., pencil, handwriting pen, sharpener, eraser, ruler, whiteboard pen, glue stick, colouring pencils to ensure that items are not shared.

Please can all parents/ carers check that all clothing and personal property brought into school is named.

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Peripatetic Music lessons

Peripatetic music lessons will commence week commencing 15th March 2021- more details are to follow.

I hope that this information is helpful and we look forward to seeing our children back in school on Monday morning.

Until then, please keep safe and take good care.

All best wishes,



Dr Deborah Craddock

Headteacher