



Dear Parents and Carers,

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

As you will know from the announcement last night, all children will return to school on Monday 8th March.

I am sure this will come as a great relief to many of you. The children have missed the interaction with their peers that they enjoyed so much last term. Although the remote learning has been successful, it's no replacement for learning together with their peers in the classroom. I am sure it will be a great relief to parents too, you've done such a good job but we fully appreciate it has been a balancing act at times. I realised that this decision may also cause some anxiety too.

Some children may be anxious about the return to school, they have got so used to being at home. Some parents may continue to be anxious about the virus.

Can I assure you that we will be doing all we can to ensure that both children and staff are as safe as they can be.

The plan is that we will revert to how we were operating in the autumn term.

We'll go back to the staggered start and finish, the different entrances and exits to school, the wearing of masks by all adults on the site. If there is a medical reason why masks can't be worn then please wear a lanyard on the outside of your coat, indicating this to everyone.

Hand washing and sanitising will continue to be crucial to the safe operation of school and we will make sure doors and windows are kept open as much as possible to ensure ventilation.

In addition to this, since January, all staff are testing themselves twice weekly using a lateral flow test. This identifies anyone who may be asymptomatic and gives us another layer of safety. To date we have had no positive tests.

I will send a letter out next week confirming the arrangements as it has been a while since December and it's easy to forget how this worked.

In addition to all returning to school, we will also resume our late finish on a Wednesday afternoon - this is our Catch Up plan and gives a little extra time for the staff to work with the children - both whole class and small groups - to start to recover some of the lost learning which is inevitable in this kind of situation.

I will write to you again next week with more details.

If you can continue with the remote learning for the time that remains it will ensure the children are in the best position to resume learning in school from the 8th March.

Many thanks.

Kay Hemmings

Head Teacher

