



Pegswood Primary School
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Mr A Waterfield, Headteacher

Mrs E Miller, Deputy Headteacher

Friday 26th February

Dear Parents/Carers,

At last we have some good news! Following the Prime Minister’s announcement this week, we are delighted to say that school will reopen to all children on Monday 8th March. We are eagerly preparing to welcome the children back after the majority of them left 8 weeks ago.

We are fully aware that some children have found this period of isolation extremely hard. They have missed school and the interaction with other children. When they return we will address these issue areas as priorities and staff will adapt their days accordingly in order to meet these needs. There has been a lot of talk from central government and some parts of the media about how far behind these children will be and how much catching up they must make. I don’t believe this kind of talk is helpful to anyone – least of all the children themselves. Yes, they have missed vital learning time in school. However, once all of the children are back in school and ready to learn, we will assess the needs of all individuals and work to try and plug the gaps.

When the children return, we will resume all the procedures in school that we had during the autumn term and those that we had on Monday 4th January. These include:

We will once again resume our one-way system through the school grounds. Please can we ask that where possible only one parent/carer brings your child onto the school grounds to limit the number of adults. Please **do not** arrive at school before 8.45am and congregate on the playground.

At the end of the day please do not arrive at school before 3.00pm. We will open the gates at 3.00pm and will operate a similar system to the drop off arrangements. You may collect your child between 3.00pm – 3.15pm, thus hopefully reducing everybody arriving at school at the same time. Please collect your child where you dropped them off and follow the same one-way system.

The children will remain in their class ‘bubbles’ as they did throughout the duration of the autumn term. Break times and lunchtimes will operate in the same way. Whilst we will be aiming to restrict the number of adults working with different classes, some adults in school will be working with more than one class.

We will still be reiterating the importance of social distance still, but as we know from experience, children find this quite difficult. However, it is important that physical distancing between all adults on site is still adhered to and we ask you to follow this please.

During the last 8 weeks, children who attended school did not need to wear school uniform. Once we start back



on 8th March, we are returning to the full wearing of school uniform. Once again, children may come to school in PE kit on PE days.

School dinners will be resuming again in full from 8th March. This will be on School Grid (Live Kitchen). Please can you ensure as much as possible, school dinners are paid through School Grid. When money has to be brought into school, please ensure that it is in a named enveloped.

Breakfast Club will be in operation starting on Monday 8th March. Please ensure that children are booked in before midday on Friday 5th March. All subsequent bookings must be made 24 hours in advance through the office in order for us to organise staffing.

After School Club and extra-curricular clubs will still not be running. This will be reviewed after Easter.

There will continue to be no visitor access to school unless there is an educational or medical reason. Our office is available to enter, although there will be a strict one family at a time policy. If there is already somebody in the entrance area of school, please wait where the painted yellow lines are. In line with all other indoor areas in society, please ensure you are wearing a mask or face covering when entering the school building.

I appreciate that once again, there is a lot of information contained in this letter. Please digest the information and share what you can at an age appropriate level with your child before we open school again on Monday 8th March. In essence, the children need to know that school be the same as when they left it at Christmas.

We still ask you to be vigilant in case your child has symptoms of Covid-19. Whilst data shows that numbers of infections is reducing, there are still positive cases within our community. We will continue to follow all government advice regarding self-isolation if a positive case occurs in your family or close contacts. All members of staff at school are testing themselves twice weekly. We hope we do not have to, but should there be a positive case in school, child or staff member, we will assess the close contacts and it will be necessary to isolate whole classes. This will be reviewed once advised by the government.

School attendance for the autumn term was incredible. Once again, when we open to all children, school attendance becomes mandatory again. It is essential that your child is in school and we begin to create stability and normality once again.

It is usual that we hold parents'/carers consultations before Easter. We have decided to delay this until after Easter as staff have had increased communication with you during this period of time. This will probably still take place via phone calls, rather than in person.

As guidance hopefully changes over the coming months we will communicate as to what those changes mean to our school.

Thank you for all of your support over the last 8 weeks. It has been nobody's preferred way to teach and learn and we appreciate all of your efforts. I would also like to thank all of the school staff for their incredible effort. We were given less than 12 hours' notice to put in place remote learning. I believe we achieved this and so much more. We hope this is the last time we have to do this. We are once again, waiting to welcome you all back to Pegswood Primary School.

Yours sincerely

A. Waterfield
(Headteacher)

