

Thursday 4th March 2021

RE: Full reopening of school to all pupils

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my letter to you last Friday, I am writing to you today to provide further details about the full reopening of school for all pupils from next Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Before I get onto specific details and reminders, I would like to provide some context which I hope you will give you some reassurance. I attended a headteacher's briefing on Tuesday and was pleased to see that the positive case rate in Warwick continues to be relatively low and below the national average. We were informed that the positive case rate is currently 97.5 per 100,000 which is currently the second lowest in the county. PHE were very positive about these figures, acknowledging that this is due to changes in public behaviour and adherence to the rules and regulations that have been put in place to keep everyone safe.

We have had a range of 120 and 150 children in school per day since January in addition to our Saplings pupils who have been required to attend their sessions throughout. We have had all our staff in school to keep the class bubbles as small as possible and I am very pleased to report that there have been no positive cases and no 'bubble' closures during this time. This has helped to keep the transmission of infection to the lowest level possible in our community and is further demonstration that the systems of control we have in place are ensuring our school continues to be as safe as possible for everyone.

Hopefully, we can all reflect on these positive developments, alongside the very positive progress being made regarding the testing and vaccinations programmes and feel reassured that we are at a stage where we can welcome all of our children safely back to school.

### What do we all need to know about the return to school?

- It is mandatory for all pupils. The government has made it very clear they expect all pupils to return unless they are following Covid-19 regulations. This means, unless children are unwell, CEV or if your household is isolating due to infection, then all children are expected to return to full time education on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- All the usual rules apply regarding anyone presenting with Coronavirus symptoms. If you have any symptoms then do not attend school and get a test.
- The staggered start times and finish times are still in place and remain the same as they were in the autumn term. A summary is included at the end of this letter. Please stick to the agreed times and **do not come to school earlier or later** than required. The expectation is still for parents to drop off or collect quickly and efficiently and use email or phone contact should you wish to discuss anything with your child's class teacher.

If you require a more detailed discussion then a phone appointment can be made and we will arrange this with you as soon as possible.

- Parents must wear masks or face coverings at all times around school unless you are exempt from doing so on health grounds. Please also ensure that you maintain a 2M distance at all times and avoid gathering socially outside any of the entry and exit points around school as this increases the risk of transmission to others and can cause anxiety for some.
- Primary pupils should not wear masks or face coverings when they are in school. If pupils travel to school on public transport or share a car with someone from outside their household then they must wear a mask/ face covering for the duration of the journey and either dispose of it on arrival or store it safely, if it is re-useable.
- Children should wear their usual school uniform wherever possible. On days when children have PE or Forest School, they should come to school wearing the clothing they need for those sessions and will not be required to change during the school day.
- The children will be managed exclusively in their class bubbles. They will be expected to do their best to maintain a safe distance at all times but it is accepted that some of the younger children may find this more difficult.
- Staff are allowed to work across different bubbles in order to ensure the school can offer a full school curriculum and to manage the school safely. This will be monitored carefully and all staff will be expected to maintain a 2M distance, wherever possible.
- Staff will continue to test for asymptomatic Covid, twice-weekly, using home test kits but there is no requirement for primary school pupils to do so. There has been a very recent update to enable families to access home testing kits which can be found using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>
- The school has updated operational plans and the whole-school Covid-19 risk assessment and this has been carefully considered and signed off by the CEO of the CAT, Philip Hamilton. This can be found on our website along with the other risk assessments that have governed our work in school during the pandemic.
- Pupils will have access to a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum and we are looking forward to spending more time outside as the weather improves. We are planning our re-entry curriculum carefully and the children will be doing some diagnostic work during the first few weeks back so we can tailor the learning to meet their individual needs as much as possible. There are currently no plans to lengthen school days or shorten the school holidays and we will write to you in the weeks ahead to provide more details about how we will be supporting pupils' learning and wellbeing.

- Our remote education provision has gone extremely well and we have already received some very positive feedback through our survey. This closes next Monday so, if you haven't completed this yet please take the opportunity to do so. From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, all children are expected to return to school and the government has made it clear that schools should provide remote education for pupils who are unable to attend due to Covid regulations. If you choose for your child not to return to school then we are under no obligation to provide home education under these circumstances. Where remote education is required, this will be provided by agreement and by email, but it will not be possible to routinely provide 'live' lesson teaching.
- The layby cones will also be making a reappearance next week to create additional safe space for children and parents to access and exit the school site. I know this isn't ideal as it has an impact on parking but I hope you agree this is a sensible measure given the circumstances.
- Finally, if you have been using any of the school's laptops or Chromebook, could you please return them at your earliest convenience so we can start to use them again to support our in-school curriculum delivery.

#### Summary of class drop off and collection arrangements:

Class	Drop off time	Collection time	Location
Saplings	9.00am	3.30pm	Saplings door
RC	8.40 – 8.55am	3.10pm - 3.25pm	Reception door
RH			
1V	8.40am	3.10pm	Y2 middle door
1L	8.45am	3.15pm	
2ML	8.50am	3.20pm	2ML door
2T	8.55am	3.25pm	2T door
3C	8.40am	3.15pm	3C door

3G	8.45am	3.20pm	Y3 door
4SM	8.55am	3.30pm	Y4 / 6 door
4Y	8.50am	3.25pm	
5SB	8.40am	3.15pm	Y5 door
5W	8.45am	3.20pm	
6B	8.50am	3.25pm	Y5 door
6K	8.55am	3.30pm	

This is a very exciting time in our journey: we are all looking forward to welcoming the children back next week and settling back into more normal routines. Inevitably, there will be some excitement and some anxiety to begin with and it is important to acknowledge this and manage our way through this with compassion and support which I believe are two qualities that have characterised our community response to the pandemic since day one. It is my hope that we can take these next steps together with 'cautious optimism' and look forward to better times on the near horizon but in the short term we need to continue to be careful, stick to the rules and stay safe.

In advance of further updates to come, many thanks for your continuing patience and support and I am looking forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)