



Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust

Central Offices, Helston Community College, Church Hill, Helston, Cornwall. TR13 8NR.

Tel. 01326 575027 or email kteague@southerlypoint.co

www.southerlypoint.co

Companies House No. 10552443

Dear Parents / Carers

Return to School

Doubtless you are all aware that the government has announced that schools will open from 8th March. School staff are looking forward to children returning and celebrating with them all the wonderful work they have done whilst they have been working from home.

All **primary school children** should attend school from **8th March** - this is a government expectation. If there are specific individual situations that may prevent this, please discuss this directly with your child's Headteacher.

For **secondary school pupils**, there will be a rolling programme for their return from 8th March – 12th March as we have been asked to undertake Lateral Flow Testing with them in school. The arrangements for this will be slightly different for each of the secondary schools, which is largely down to the size and logistics for each setting. The detail for your child will be sent separately from their school. In due course, pupils will be offered home testing kits but, to access these, they must have taken part in the school testing rounds in the week commencing 8th March. For this to happen, if you have not yet returned a consent form, please do this as soon as possible. Evidently, the greater number that take up the testing, the more chance there is in screening out asymptomatic cases, making things safer for everyone.

The government guidance states that **secondary pupils** will be expected to wear masks in lessons if they are not sat a 2m distance from others (unless there is a clinical reason not to do so). Pupils were used to bringing masks to wear in corridors and on school transport so this should not be a problem for them. Please ensure that your child has a ready supply of suitable masks.

We want to stress with you all that this return from lockdown is different to the previous one as all pupils will be back in school at once. It is really important that parents ensure their families adhere to the government Covid restrictions in order to keep schools safe. Please do not congregate at the school gates or streets around school, as tempting as it might be to catch up face to face to share experiences of lockdown. We want to keep schools open and to do this we need everyone to keep to the Covid rules. Your children do tell us what they've been up to in terms of meeting up with friends, sleepovers, etc and understandably this makes school staff feel somewhat frustrated! Every time you bend the rules, you potentially expose the school to risk. Please for the sake of a few more weeks help us to keep everyone safe. The last thing we want is for another lockdown, bubble closures or for the staff to be absent through Covid which would mean your child not having their teacher face to face again.

The government have announced additional funding to help us support children, especially the disadvantaged, who may not have accessed the full curriculum and need to have some aspects of learning revisited. As always the devil is in the detail. We do not know how much each school will get; how much is new funding on top of the original amounts given after the last lockdown. **We will keep you informed in due course.** However, please be assured that our priority is to ensure that all the children thrive and make good progress – you will know that the teachers and support staff are passionate about educating children and will continue, as they have done so throughout the pandemic, to work to ensure your children's needs are addressed.

Your partnership with the school staff throughout the lockdown will have taught the children resilience and ensured that they have grasped key building blocks for their learning. Children are far more resilient than we sometimes give them credit for – many of them will bounce back quite quickly into their normal patterns of learning and accelerate forward with their teachers. The staff will be able to recognise where there are aspects that need further work as well as where children need emotional support as they readjust to school life.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Donna

Donna Bryant

Trust Executive Leader