Re: Reopening of school Monday 8th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well and have been staying safe in these turbulent and worrying times.

It goes without saying that we have missed the children so much since the beginning of the Spring term. The school has felt very strange without out all the children so we are all incredibly excited to see them all on Monday 8th March 2021. Essentially our approach to opening safely to all pupils remains unchanged and the information shared here is a reminder of some of the measures and arrangements that we have in place, in line with Government guidance.

**Dropping off:**

Gates will open at 8:45am Please park respectful and legally on Smithdown Lane. Do not park on yellow zig zags or block neighbour’s drive ways. Please do not gather in large groups to minimise contact between bubbles. Please let your child enter without you. As they enter school children will wash and sanitise their hands. If you need to speak to staff, please wear a mask and keep a safe distance. Appointments can be made for longer conversations.

**Collection:**

A mask must be worn by all parents when collecting their child. Staff will remind you in case you forget. Parents who are medically exempt can speak to a member of management. If you do not have a mask, please wait at the gate and we will bring your child to you. Only one parent should come onto the yard at the end of the day in line with Government guidance to prevent large gatherings.

Collection times and locations are unchanged and will continue to be staggered to minimise contact between bubbles. Please be on time.

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 - please collect at **3pm**

Years 4 5 and 6 **3:10pm**

**Coronavirus – What you must do:**

If your child or a member of your household are suffering from corona symptoms, you must not come to school and contact the main office (0151 709 6229). The main symptoms are:

* A high temperature
* A new continuous cough
* Loss or change to your taste or smell

We are also aware that staff, parents and children who have tested positive in recent months had other symptoms such as headaches, ‘shaking’ feeling, tiredness and common cold/flu symptoms.

Please err on the side of caution. If you have any of the symptoms above or are concerned then please get a covid test. Whilst you wait for the results, your child and the household must remain at home and isolate. If negative, please tell us and they can return to school. If positive, your child and household must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Please see Government guidance for further advice.

If a child or a staff member in their bubble tests positive for coronavirus, all members of the bubble will isolate for 10 days before returning to school.

**Household testing:**

As a household, you can now access testing twice weekly. These are the ‘quick result’ tests. You can visit a local test centre or click the link below. By following the link, tests can be sent to your home, which is highly recommended. School staff will be doing this testing twice a week.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

**Work Provided for Children who are Self-Isolating:**

School work will continue to be provided for all children who are self-isolating. In cases where whole class bubbles are required to self-isolate, remote learning will be provided. Children and parents should try their best and not feel obliged to complete the work if they are ill.

**Pupil wellbeing and support:**

Understandably, many of the children will be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the outbreak and their return to school. We will be doing all we can to support the children through this journey with their mental health and wellbeing needs. We will support:

* The rebuilding of friendships and socialising with one another
* Approaches for physical and mental well being
* More focussed pastoral support for individuals
* Ease them in to their curriculum learning

**Curriculum Recovery:**

I am pleased with the levels of engagement of our remote learning programme, which children have demonstrated over the last few weeks and the efforts made by all parents. Once the children have settled back into school, we will assess and work with the children to support them through any ‘gaps’ that may have developed in their learning whilst away from school and guide then through the catch up curriculum.

**Returning from Another Country:**

If you have travelled out of the UK, you and your family must quarantine on your return. This is for 10 days. Please inform us of any travel and your return dates.

**Breakfast and Extra Curricular Clubs:**

From Monday 15th March 2021, all after school clubs will start and letters of interest will be sent out next week. The children will be in their year group bubbles for clubs to minimise any potential spread of corona virus. Breakfast club will also start from Monday 15th March for key worker and vulnerable families in the first instance. A letter will be sent out for this next week.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and feel free to ask any questions and we will endeavour to answer them for you.

We very much look forward to welcoming all children back into school on Monday 8th March.

Kind Regards

Phil Horne