

22nd February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement today, I can confirm that the school will reopen to all children from **Monday 8th March**.

Over the next two weeks we will continue to deliver onsite provision for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable children. Our remote learning provision will continue for all other pupils.

Throughout this period, we will make preparations for the wider reopening. We will work carefully through the government guidance to ensure that all controls are in place in order to ensure a safe environment for all.

As we get closer to the 8th March, we will write to you again to communicate the final details of your child's return. This will include arrangements for staggered start times and the on site controls that will be in place in order to continue to promote social distancing, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day.

Once the academy reopens on the 8th March, we will continue to manage the school in class based bubbles. This will ensure that we are able to limit how many contacts each child has and in the event of a positive case will enable us to only have to instruct a smaller number of pupils to self isolate. Many of our staff are engaging in the weekly LFD testing which has been made available to all adults working in school. This is a proactive measure which allows us to identify positive cases within asymptomatic adults and respond accordingly.

Much of your child's provision will remain unchanged from that experienced at the end of 2020. Any changes in light of revised government guidance will be communicated to you shortly.

In order for us to make plans for school meals provision, it would greatly help if you could complete the online form: <https://forms.gle/bn5dyUznfI8c2UpK8> to indicate if your child will be taking a school meal. We will continue to offer a 2 course hot school meal (with an option of a sandwich instead of the hot main course). The cost of a school meal is £2.25 per day. All children from Reception - Y2 are entitled to a free school meal. Equally, if your child is eligible for a free school meal as part of wider criteria, you should complete the form to indicate that you wish to take this up on return to school. Should you feel that you are now eligible for free school meals, the academy will be able to provide you with further information in relation to applying for this.

The wider reopening of schools is a positive step forward in the country's response to COVID 19. Once reopen, all children (with the exception of those instructed to shield) will be expected to attend. As a result, our live online provision will not be provided in the way that it has been during the closure period.

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I am sure that you will appreciate that we now have to work through our planning and the revised guidance. I will write to you again as we approach the reopening date.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Kirkman
Academy Principal

