



Wednesday 24th February 2021

Returning to School from 8th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

By now you will be fully aware of the Prime Minister's statement which has confirmed that all children will be returning to school from 8th March 2021.

I am sure you will be as relieved as I am so let's all hope this is the first step on a journey back to normality for the country. We cannot wait to see the children who have missed face to face teaching at school throughout the whole of Term 3, roll on the 8th March!

However, a huge well done to you all for the fantastic effort that you have made in supporting your children to continue their learning at home. You have done an absolutely super job and are to be congratulated. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, kindness and patience. When things have been tough, your words of encouragement have been so heart-warming and helped keep the staff going at school – THANK YOU.

From the 8th March, all remote learning will end and will only resume if a class/group or individual needs to self-isolate as a result of a positive coronavirus test or because they have a shielding letter from the Government.

We have now received the Government's Guidance for school reopening, and there is a very strong message that there is an expectation that all children return on the 8th March, unless they have a shielding letter from the Government. If children do not return to school, there is the possibility of penalty notices being imposed as this would constitute a breach of the law on school attendance.

In terms of the more general guidance on how the school days will run, very little has changed from the guidance that we had for returning to school this September. Therefore, the points that I will raise below in my letter will be important reminders rather than drastic changes. Please note a further letter will follow with a reminder of start times and finish times and drop off and collection points.

- Children should not attend school if either they or any members of the family are unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus, and to be cautious if children are unwell about whether they should attend school. Children of primary age will not be tested with lateral flow tests on a regular basis, although all staff are currently tested twice weekly.
- Primary school children will not be wearing face coverings when returning to school, due to their age and following Government Guidance.
- All parents/carers, unless exempt, must wear a face covering whilst on the school site due to the number of people that will be mixing during drop off and pick up times. Please remember to continue social distancing where possible and to not congregate/chat either on the school site or near the entrances.
- Children must not bring anything from home that is not absolutely necessary, and definitely no toys, games or soft toys as this increases any infection risk.

- Breakfast Club resumes from the 8th March – please contact the school office directly if you wish to take up your place so that they can plan accordingly.
- Children will have the opportunity to bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner

On the first day back please would you kindly return any borrowed equipment so that it can be cleaned and returned into circulation in school. We also ask that the laptops loaned to families are returned on Monday 8th March to the school office so that we can check these back into school, in line with the lending agreements that were signed when the devices were lent out.

All reading books and pupil workbook/work packs need to go directly to the class teachers, so that work can be assessed and books can go into quarantine and then quickly back into general circulation.

We will be looking at restarting after school sports clubs this term, which will be limited in the first instance whilst we follow the strict guidelines on year group bubbles. Hopefully, these will relax in time, allowing us to offer more clubs. We will send home letters when we have further details.

Interventions, before and after school will begin again as part of our catch-up provision from week commencing 15th March. Teachers will be carrying out a range of assessments over the next few weeks to help with their planning, with effective intervention as needed and this will be fed back to you in attainment reports at the end of Term 4 and at a parent consultation session in early Term 5. We will let you know the dates and how to book your appointment in a separate letter.

Finally, we will be welcoming a number of new children into school when we return. A number of families have moved into the area during lockdown and we are delighted that these children will be joining our Archbishop Courtenay Primary School community, for some of them after a wait of a term! We welcome you all, and alongside this, we look forward to welcoming all the children back into school on the 8th March 2021. If you have any further questions about reopening, please do contact the school office or your child's teacher via the class email address.

Best wishes



Mrs Sue Heather
Headteacher