

Tuesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

### Returning to School from March 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure that you will be fully aware by now of the Prime Minister's statement which has confirmed that all children will be returning to school from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

You will be, as I am relieved that this is hopefully the first step on a journey back to normality for the country, and a step back into education for the children who have missed the whole of Term 3 face to face at school. However, well done to you all for the fantastic effort that you have made in supporting your children to continue their learning at home, following the teacher planning, as this will allow us to keep going with the learning schedule and curriculum when the children return to their classrooms. With such a packed and challenging curriculum, we hope that this has given the children every opportunity to continue to progress in their learning without too much detriment to their attainment levels. From the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 guidance for school reopening, and there is a very strong message that there is an expectation that all children return on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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. A further letter will follow with a reminder of start times and finish times and drop off and collection points.

A reminder that 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. However, you can make use of the local testing centre at Herne if you wish your child/family to undertake regular tests.

Similarly, children of primary school age will not be wearing face coverings when returning to school, due to their age and following government guidance. We remind all parents/carers that you should wear a face covering whilst on the school site though due to the number of people that will be mixing during drop off

and pick up times, alongside a reminder please to always socially distance where possible and to not congregate/chat either on the school site or near the entrances.

We have sent a lot of equipment home during this period of lockdown. On the first day back, please could we have this returned so that it can be cleaned and returned into circulation in school.

If laptops/tablets please can be brought 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 workbooks/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.

Please can children not bring anything from home that is not absolutely necessary, and definitely no toys, games, soft toys as this increases any infection risk.

Breakfast and after school club resumes from the 8<sup>th</sup> March – please contact Kindergarten Kids directly if you wish to take up your place so that they can plan accordingly.

We will soon be restarting after school sports clubs, 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 be starting before/after school interventions as part of our catch up provision from week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> March. If your child is invited, it is really important that they attend as this will help them to catch up to the correct level and be able to cope with the ongoing learning within their classroom. If they do not attend, this will mean that another child is potentially missing out on their place. Teachers will contact you directly by letter if your child is one of the initial group identified for outside of school hours catch up provision, and our additional adults will also be providing catch up interventions from w/c 8<sup>th</sup> March within school time too. Teachers will be carrying out a range of assessments over the next few terms 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 Reculver family, 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 8<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any further questions about reopening, please do contact the school office or your child's teacher via Dojo.

Best wishes



Mrs J Ashley-Jones  
Headteacher

