



Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to share our plans following the announcement by the Prime Minister on Monday evening that schools will open to all pupils from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We have been open to a large number of pupils since returning after Christmas, but many of them have had to be part time to keep our school community safe. We are really looking forward to having everyone back in school full time. We know how hard it has been for our pupils and you, to be at home for long periods during these winter months.

Although it will be wonderful to have all children back in school, some will find the return hard. Some have got used to being in small groups and having everyone back will also be a challenge for them. We are very aware of this and will be providing support for everyone to make it as manageable as we can. There will be a continuing focus on wellbeing and positive mental health, supported by the structures and routines of the timetable, lessons and other activities.

### **Who returns when?**

Any pupil who is already coming into school either full or part time can return full time on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The DFE have stated that the expectation is all pupils will return on the 8<sup>th</sup> unless shielding but as always, I will be open to individual conversations about returning.

Those pupils who have not been coming into school since Christmas or before might find this more difficult and may be particularly anxious. If this is the case, we can delay their full time return until Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March so that they have just two days in school before the weekend. If you would like to go with this option, please let your teacher know.

### **Transport**

We are expecting school transport to be operating as normal from 8<sup>th</sup> March and are waiting for details from them. It is possible there may be some staff changes on the buses. The congestion at the end of the day still needs to be managed in a Covid safe way, so there may be times when your child arrives home 10 minutes either side of their normal time.

### **Home learning**

Some pupils are shielding and will continue to work from home until Easter. We will still provide remote learning opportunities and resource packs for them to follow.

### **Staff testing**

We received our first batch of home testing kits, so those staff that want to can test twice a week. Pupils under the age of 11 are not expected to test and we won't be testing secondary pupils in school.

Yours sincerely

S A Pickering  
Head teacher