



Thursday 4th March, 2021

School Re-opening – March 8th

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school, on Monday. We have, of course, done this all before in September, so we are more prepared and know a little bit more about what to expect.

One of the most significant differences this time, however, is that this is the second Lockdown and partial school closure that families have experienced in the last year. It is the second abrupt, enforced absence from school that most pupils have gone through: not a situation that we could ever have imagined or would have chosen for our children. Teaching time has been lost; friends and families have been separated; household incomes have been affected; home schooling has been.... an experience; and we now all seem to know someone who has been ill or sadly died, after contracting coronavirus. It has been a particularly difficult time that has had a significant impact on us all. It is a relief and exciting to finally be planning a way forward!

The next few weeks and months are crucial to ensuring a safe and positive transition for our whole school community so that pupils can reconnect, recover and begin to repair, from what has been a traumatic period in their young lives. We are anticipating and planning for the difficulties, questions, worries and needs of pupils as we re-engage as a whole school, so that all pupils can feel safe, supported, heard and reassured. We are committed to effectively supporting pupils to settle back into school life, reunite with their friends and get back on track, to reach their potential. This is likely, however, to be a long-lasting process.

We will ensure that our curriculum is well planned and designed to anticipate and address the impact of this second Lockdown and partial school closure, on the physical and emotional wellbeing as well as the education of our pupils. We will provide frequent and regular opportunities for pupils to explore their thoughts and feelings; play and bond with each other and the adults; and adjust to being back at school together. We will, in the coming days and weeks, plan opportunities to identify and assess pupils' learning and activities to support them to remember, practise and improve their knowledge, skills, and understanding. Our expectations of all pupils remain high. We will provide more details about how these plans affect your child, next week.

Another significant difference between this full re-opening and the last, is that testing for COVID-19 is more widespread and the UK vaccination programme is being rolled out. All school staff and regular visitors to Bowmansgreen now have access to regular testing for coronavirus, currently via rapid Lateral Flow Tests, carried out twice weekly.

NHS Test and Trace announced, earlier this week, that ***all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.*** [Test kits can either be collected or ordered online.](#)

'Inspiring, nurturing and achieving excellence together'

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We continue to be guided by government policy and legislation that sets out our responsibilities and actions for re-opening school to all pupils. As with other areas of risk within a school setting, we are required to manage and reduce the continued risk of transmission of coronavirus as far as is reasonably practicable, recognising that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk altogether.

Many of the measures that we put in place for the start of the school year last September, will still apply:

- Staggered start and finish times, to reduce congestion and contact on the school site
 - EYFS, Y2, Y3, Y4 : 8.35 – 3.00/3.05pm
 - Y1, Y5, Y6: 8.15 – 2.40pm
- The back gate remains for pupils only (Y4 - Y6 can leave the site at the end of the day, as independent travellers)
- Families to access the office, breakfast club and KS1 playground, via front gate only
- Staff to release pupils from the KS1 playground at the end of the day
- A one way system will remain on the KS1 playground and at the front gate
- Families are asked not to gather at/around the school gates
- Remote Learning will continue to be available on our school website, for pupils who need to self-isolate

Issues around the staggered start and finish times and how to manage dropping off/collecting more than one child, will obviously remain. As before, we ask that families with siblings choose one of the start and finish times for both/all children, discuss it with each class teacher via the school office, and agree and confirm what works best for both home and class.

We will adjust these measures as the government reviews and hopefully lifts more national restrictions and we move out of Lockdown.

We are currently updating our risk assessment, detailing our plans to fully re-open and to reflect recent government changes and guidance. This will be available on the school website, from Monday.

As before, we want all pupils to feel reassured, safe and happy to be back at school together and we will try our best to get the balance right between managing risks and maintaining everything that is fun, essential and secure about school life.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. A Lippa
Headteacher

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