



Amber Valley
& Erewash
Support Centres

Tom England
Headteacher

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to set out our plans for the wider opening of school from 8th March, as announced by the government. Before doing so, I would first like to express my gratitude to parents and carers for their support in the delivery of remote education. It is because of this support that the vast majority of pupils were regularly accessing our remote education offer, either through academic learning or the family activity packs. Whilst we hope that this is the last lockdown, should there be any further interruptions to education, we will revert to setting remote education as we have for the past two months.

Return to school

From the 8th of March we are expecting all pupils to return to their normal educational package and timetable. We are just obtaining further guidance on whether we are able to resume home tuition and learning and will inform you when we have more information and clarity on the matter. Until then your child will continue to be in receipt of a remote learning package.

Control Measures

From the 8th March, we will return to the previous control measures that were put in place at the start of the academic year in September. Pupils attending a site will be classed as a bubble, with social distancing in place where possible. Pupils may be asked to use household anti-viral and anti-bacterial wipes to clean shared equipment and their desk spaces. If you are concerned or have questions regarding this then please contact the site lead where your child attends. Weather permitting pupils will be given ample opportunity to take breaks outside.

We will continue to insist on good hygiene practice; pupils will be required to wash their hands regularly with a particular focus on arrival, and at the start and end of lunchtime and use hand sanitizer on a frequent basis. Our cleaning regimes will continually focus on key 'touchpoints' throughout the academy. Pupils will always be required to maintain a minimum distance of 2m from staff, except where they are being directly supported and then masks will be worn.

Masks

The government guidance on the wider opening of school requires all pupils to wear a face covering where social distancing cannot be achieved, except only for those with medical exemption. In most classrooms, it is not possible for pupils to be social distanced from each other, it is therefore recommended that pupils will be required to wear a mask in lessons where this is the case. On the occasion that social distancing between pupils can be achieved, for example as a result of using a larger space, pupils will be offered the opportunity to remove their mask. As already noted, pupils will be given breaks throughout the day to go outside, where they will not be required to wear a mask.

It is also recommended that staff will also wear masks in the classroom, except when delivering learning from a distance of at least 2m from pupils. When directly supporting individuals, it will be recommended that teachers and teaching assistants will apply face coverings before approaching pupils.

We are happy to provide a mask to any child who requires one.

Testing

You will know from the government announcements regarding the wider opening of schools, that regular testing will be available to pupils. With your consent, we will be offering twice weekly lateral flow device (LFD) tests to all pupils, which can be taken at home. These tests will be distributed as soon as they arrive in school, shortly after the 8th March. School staff are also undertaking twice weekly testing.

To receive the kits, parents will be required to complete a consent form or provide verbal consent via a conversation with a member of the staffing team, which will be sent / completed in the up and coming days ahead. In addition to providing consent, you will be able to give the option of either having the kits sent home with the pupils, be collected from the school by you or, if your child is receiving home learning then a test kit can be delivered to you via the child's keyworker . Should you choose for the kits to be sent home with your child, we will inform you on the day that the kits are being sent home so that you can expect to receive them. Once kits leave the school site, we are unable to take responsibility for them or their use.

If you have any queries or questions relating to testing, please let us know. Testing is completely optional, however, we encourage testing to take place as it provides an additional layer of safety to our control measures. Pupils can still attend if they choose not to take the test.

Please see our website for the COVID-19 ~Testing Privacy Notice.

As ever, take care and stay safe. We look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back into school.

Yours faithfully

Tom England
Headteacher