

Dear parents and carers,

At last – we will all be back to school on 8 March! We are very much looking forward to having all the children back and I hope they are looking forward to it too! I will write next week with details of timings, etc, but we will essentially be returning to what we did in the Autumn term. Although there is great progress with the vaccine programme, rates locally are higher now than they were at the start of the Autumn term, so we will not be relaxing any measures at all until after Easter at the earliest.

### **Risk Assessment**

The school's Risk Assessment is constantly updated and reviewed. This is how we reduce the risk of the spread of the virus to adults and children. There are a small number of changes as follows:

- Testing: adults in school are tested twice weekly with Lateral Flow Tests. These take place on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. If any member of staff tests positive, we will inform the bubble they have worked with, and any other close contacts in school for the previous 48 hours. There is no testing for primary school children.
- Face coverings: our staff now wear face coverings in communal areas and where they work very closely with children. We continue to wear face coverings at the beginning and end of the day.
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) staff: where staff have been instructed to remain at home as a result of their CEV status, parents of those children affected will be informed.

Children will remain in their class bubbles and these will be kept separate as they were in the Autumn term.

### **Return to School**

All children will return on 8 March. As this return is in mid-term, and follows a period of structured remote learning, we will take a different approach to the return in September. This lockdown has been more challenging socially as it has been in winter and children haven't been able to get out as much and we know that they will have missed their friends and social interaction. We also know that children have worked very hard, and with your support, their learning has continued. Therefore, for the three weeks up to the Easter term, we will keep a balance of structured learning with high expectations in English and maths, and more relaxed creative time which will give the children opportunities to re-connect with friends, chat at the same time as creating models, craft and items that will be displayed across school to represent our reunion and coming freedom. We will build in lots of physical activity and we are aiming for our Daily Mile to become faster, with much more running – so trainers will be needed.

### **Mindset and Values**

The key areas we will be focusing on with the children are: effort, perseverance (giving up is not allowed), being kind, listening and responding to others, and problem solving/being independent. Certificates and merits will be awarded for children showing these attributes.

### **'Catch Up'**

It is frustrating to hear talk of 'lost learning' (and even lost future earnings) when we know how hard you, your children and we have been working! An important question to ask is, 'catch up to what or who?' Schooling has obviously been disrupted, and teaching and learning has been more challenging, but children have continued to learn. We will do what we always do, which is see where the children are and move them on from there – wherever that might be. We will watch carefully in the first three weeks and identify children's needs, both academic and social. We will not be talking about 'lost' education, being 'behind' and the need to 'catch up'. We will continue to talk positively to children and encourage them to develop their growth mindset. We continue to believe in their

abilities and together we will help and support them. As the school's vision states, 'we steadfastly believe that each of us is capable of great things' and the small matter of a year-long global pandemic will not divert us from our mission to help every child achieve their own great things.

### **Questionnaire**

So that we have as good an understanding as possible about how the children have been at home, we will be sending out a questionnaire next week, so you can tell us everything you think we should know about how your child has been. This will be just for those children who have not been in school.

### **Uniform**

Children grow and shops have been closed. Please can your child dress in as much uniform as possible, but don't worry if you have to substitute some uniform items, although please keep any non-uniform as plain as possible. Trainers are also acceptable at the moment.

### **World Book Day**

This is on Thursday next week and there will be lots of fun, book based activities for that day. Look out for the Masked Reader video next week too!

### **Photography Project**

We have received so many amazing photographs from children – all on the theme of 'Life'. These can be seen by [visiting this website](https://sites.google.com/bournschool.co.uk/photogallery/home):

<https://sites.google.com/bournschool.co.uk/photogallery/home> We are bowled over by the range of photographs and the creativity of our children. Well done!

Have a great weekend everyone – it looks like it will be sunny all day tomorrow. Spring really is here!

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