



HIGHER OPENSHAW COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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3rd March 2021

Return of all pupils to school on 8th March

Dear Parent / Carer,

Following the Government's recent announcement, we are very pleased to be welcoming back all our pupils on Monday 8th March. As a school, we have now referenced the updated guidance from the Department for Education. We have reviewed and updated our risk assessments in readiness to support the children in returning to school in a safe and positive way.

So many parents have done an amazing job of 'home schooling' and our critical worker parents have continued to keep our country going under such difficult circumstances. We know this time has been challenging for everyone. We ask that that you please continue to encourage your son/daughter to complete the work set by their class teacher this week so that they come back to school as up to date as possible.

When school reopens, as always, we will focus on mental and physical wellbeing and social connections. We will continue to have high academic expectations for all pupils, as well as reviewing their learning so that teachers know how they can best support all the children moving forwards.

Attendance

From 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply. As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus or have tested positive
- Lives with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

Our Safety Measures:

Following strong recommendations from the Government hand washing and hand sanitising will continue to happen throughout the day. The "Catch-it", "Bin-it", "Kill-it" will continue to be reinforced.

Cleaning has been increased, particularly of surfaces and frequently used furniture such as door handles. In PE, equipment will only be used if/when it is possible to clean thoroughly. Shared reading books will be quarantined on return to school and cleaned before re issuing. Each child will have their own pen/pencil/rubber/pencil crayons/whiteboard and pen but resources can be used and shared within the individual bubbles.

All staff will now be tested for Covid-19 twice a week.

Social distancing

Pupils maintaining 2-metres distance from each other at all times is not possible in schools. There is not enough space. With the exception of the youngest pupils in school, all pupils will continue to sit in class as the teacher determines which may be facing forward or other seating combinations. Pupils will be reminded repeatedly about the importance of distancing, but parents particularly of very young children in Early Years especially should be aware that it would not be possible to enforce distancing all the time when children are playing and learning together.

Restricting mixing between groups of children

All pupils are in a class “bubble”. They will have their own class teacher(s) and some TA support. They will stay in this “bubble” during break and lunchtimes

Start & Finish times

These times are the same as before the lockdown in January. Please drop off your child in the same manner as you did previously. Siblings will start and finish at the earlier time as happened in December.

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
Nursery	8.45am	2.30pm
Reception	9.10am	3.10pm
Year 1	9.00am	3.00pm
Year 2	8.50am	2.50pm
Year 3	8.40am	2.40pm
Year 4	9.00am	3.00pm
Year 5	8.50am	2.50pm
Year 6	8.40am	2.40pm

Only one parent should bring pupils into school. We ask that you please adhere to your allocated times rigorously in order to help us maintain social distancing as much as possible.

Adults are politely requested to wear a facemask or covering when dropping off and collecting pupils where possible unless exempt. All staff will also be wearing face coverings in line with new national guidance. Parents should remain socially distanced whilst at the school gates.

IT Devices (Ibads / Chromebooks / laptops)

Please return to school all IT devices that have been loaned out. It is important that all devices come back to school as they are to be used in school for catch-up interventions.

Face Coverings

The advice for children in primary schools remains that children will not need to wear a facemask. Adults in school have been issued with a visor and mask which they may choose to wear when working in close proximity with children during lesson time. All school staff will now be wearing a face covering in communal areas.

School Uniform

Full school uniform will be required from 8th March onwards as will a full PE kit. Please ensure all school uniform is fully labelled. An outdoor coat will be required even though the sun may be out it is still too cold to be without a coat.

Pupil Assessment

As all pupils return to school, teachers across the school will be preparing for our end of spring term assessments. These will be crucial in supporting our efforts to plan a revised summer term curriculum designed to ensure a minimal impact of the national school closures over the previous twelve months. Pupil reports will be issued at the beginning of summer Term in April, followed by a remote parents' evening.

Illness

We really depend on your support with this. So please, do not send your son/daughter to school if they have:

- a high temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature),
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual),
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Additionally, if anyone else in the family home displays symptoms, everybody must self-isolate until the poorly family member has returned a negative test result. Even if someone in the household goes for a test as a precaution and you expect the outcome to be negative, the entire household must isolate until a negative test result is confirmed.

All of the plans we have informed you of in this letter remain subject to change if the Government, Local Authority or Teaching Unions recommend a course of action, at which point we will change our plans accordingly and communicate with you all once we have considered the recommendation fully.

We are all looking forward to seeing the children back in school and we very much appreciate your on-going support. As always, please take care, follow the safety guidelines and look after yourselves and your family.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher

