

# School Opening – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

## Dear Parents / Carers

As you are aware the government have now confirmed its plans to re-open all schools on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Why is school open to all children this March?

The government guidance is clear that **all** pupils in **all** year groups should return to school at the beginning of the Spring term. It explains that:

- Returning to school is vital for children’s education and for their wellbeing.
- Many people have now received the Vaccine
- The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low

We have very much missed seeing all the children and are really looking forward to them returning. We are aware that parents will understandably have concerns and I want to outline the measures we’ll be taking in school to reduce the risks.

## Attendance

**All** children are expected to attend from 8<sup>th</sup> March

From 8<sup>th</sup> 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 symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

## Staggered start and end times

All children will enter via Harrington Street

- All children will need to be brought to school and collected from school.
- Parents will not be able to come into the school building without an appointment
- Only one adult brings and collects children from school
- **we ask that you wear a face covering whilst you are on site**
- Family groups should leave the school premises as quickly as possible -There will be a one-way system in place
- Year groups will have different start and finish times:

Year Group	Start Time	End Time
Year 3	8.50am	2.55pm
Year 4	9.00am	3.05pm
Year 5	9.10am	3.15pm
Year 6	9.20am	3.25pm

*We understand that some families have more than one child at school so brothers and sisters will be allowed to arrive and leave at the same time as during the Autumn Term*

## Prevention Measures will still be in place

### **Class Bubbles**

We will be keeping children in class bubbles and minimising contact with other children and staff as much as possible



### **Washing hands**

There will be regular opportunities where the children will wash their hands throughout the school day.



### **School cleaning**

There will be an increased amount of cleaning around the school



## **Prevention of Coronavirus**

School staff will now complete a Coronavirus Test twice a week. This will allow us to find any cases where symptoms are not present

Any pupils or staff must not come into school if they have coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- 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

## **Facemasks**

School staff will wear face masks when moving around the school building and during collection and drop off. We politely ask all parents (unless they are exempt) to wear a face covering when they are on school site.

Public health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools for primary aged pupils

## **Lunch time**

We think it's very important that we continue to offer the children a hot meal at school. Lunch arrangements will be staggered with one year group eating at a time: The following systems will also be in place:

- Classes will play in separate zones
- There will only be one hot meal option available (vegetarian)
- Dinners will be served/collected at the hatch
- Children will eat with their bubble in the dining hall or dance studio

## **Uniform**

- Children should arrive wearing full school uniform
- Dark shoes or plain black trainers are allowed as part of school uniform
- **PE KIT** – Children will be allowed to come into school on the day they do PE wearing their kit.

## **What can children bring to school?**

We're aiming to reduce the amount of things that children bring into school. Children can bring in any of the items listed below:

- Coat/Hat
- Book bag/rucksack
- Packed lunch
- Water bottles
- Children will bring home their reading and homework books, these must be brought back into school **every** day.
- **Unless it is listed, Children must not bring anything else into school**

## Information on arrangements for remote learning for children who are self-isolating

Children required to self-isolate whilst their class is in school will have remote learning, we will try to ensure this is as close as we can make it to the onsite provision.

- Children will be able to access learning remotely through Showbie.
- Each week, teachers will upload work to Showbie; this may include access to live lessons in English and Maths
- Children who are unable to access Showbie will be provided with a device and hard copies of work packs.

### School Devices

If your child has loaned a device from school these will need to be returned to school next week. We will be in touch to explain the arrangements to return these devices. Once devices are returned, we may then re-distribute to selected pupils to access further support at home.

### Return to School

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we would like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, please let us know.

We would also like to thank you for all of your support in helping your child learn from home. We will continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

**Please remember to talk to your children about having good habits around health and hygiene.**

**See the poster opposite which gives further information about how they can keep themselves safe.**

# Welcome back to school!



Wash your hands often with soap for 20 seconds



Use hand sanitiser if soap and water not available



Use a tissue or your arm when you cough or sneeze



Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and face



Stay at home if you have any symptoms of Coronavirus



Avoid close contact and keep to your class bubble



Only use your own school resources



Avoid hugging and contact with others

For up-to-date information about returning to school go to [www.peartreej.derby.sch.uk](http://www.peartreej.derby.sch.uk)



We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

*I will be sharing all the latest updates with the children in a virtual assembly at 1.30pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Recordings will then be available on our YouTube channel in different languages.*

Kind Regards and best wishes

Andrew Sharp