

05 March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly we would like to thank you for all the support that you have given to your schools over the last year and since the first Lockdown in March 2020. We do understand that for some of you it has been really challenging year and that you will be looking forward to your children returning to school next week. Thank you to all of you for the way in which you have approached remote learning and how you have supported your children and young people.

Please be assured that all of our schools have been working hard to get everything in place to welcome children and young people back to school on Monday, this of course includes getting ready for Covid testing and guidelines as well as getting the curriculum and teaching ready. We want to reassure you about this so that you'll have confidence in your children returning where they haven't been on-site as this is key to starting to get back to some level of normality for them.

The most important thing is to get our children back in front of their teachers, those that know them well so that we can identify the impact of lockdown, including where it has been a positive experience as well as where for some it has had a negative impact on their mental health and well-being so that appropriate support can be given.

For the vast majority of our children they will return from the week beginning March 8.

**We need your help** to make this return as safe as possible for everybody.  
**What can we all do?**

- Follow all COVID-19 safety measures at home, on the way to school, on public transport, when at school, during break times and on the way home from school:
  - **Face:** using face coverings as much as possible, for example when queueing, inside the supermarket, on public transport and for secondary schools in corridors and class rooms
  - **Hands:** wash/sanitise your hands regularly
  - **Space:** keep 2 m away from people outside your household and support bubble; this includes in the street on the way to school / college
  - **Ventilate:** keep rooms well ventilated, for example by partially opening windows.
- England is still in national lockdown. You must stay at home and only leave when permitted by the law. In this case, follow the rules:
  - Stay in your local area

- Don't socialise with anyone from outside your household except for one other person (keeping 2 m apart) for exercise outside and for support bubbles.
- If your child is eligible for after school care activities:
  - Limit this to one - as far as possible in the school bubble
  - As far as possible, use settings local to your home or child's school (within walking or cycling distance)
  - Keep a record of when your child attend the setting and where it is.
  - Discourage your child from mixing with different peer groups outside of the specific activity or group setting.
- If your child is eligible for the school testing programme, encourage them to take up the offer.

We are working to ensure that schools and settings are supported to enable a safe return to on-site education. Parents, carers and pupils also have an important role to play in supporting safe return to on-site education by following the government and the wider public health advice and guidance.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to keep schools and us all safe.

Yours sincerely,



**Debbie Jones**  
Executive Director Children  
Families and Education



**Shelley Davies**  
Interim Director  
of Education



**Rachel Flowers,**  
Director of Public Health