



Newsletter

05.03.2021



Return to school – Monday 8th March 2021

Everyone is really excited about welcoming the children back next week. I am, however, mindful that there will be lots of people who are concerned about the reopening of schools. Many of you will have rarely left the house since the national restrictions began in January and will be concerned about the number of people that will be on site on Monday morning. With this in mind, can I please ask all of you to make sure that you:

- 1) Wear a face mask when entering the site
- 2) Social distance from others
- 3) Stick to the staggered times
- 4) Leave site quickly once dropping the children off

These actions will really help to alleviate some of the concerns many will have.

I have included information below about the lateral flow testing kits that can be ordered and used by anyone over the age of 18. There are no plans currently to test primary age children within school.

A copy of our risk assessment is on our website located under the Covid-19 section and there is a page dedicated to the school reopening.

Return to school – Monday 8th March 2021 – Attendance Reminder

The Government have made it clear that children are expected to return to school full time from March. This means from Monday 8th March, the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

Your child **must not** attend if they have any Covid-19 symptoms/have tested positive in the last 10 days, or they live with someone who has symptoms. When you inform the school of your child's absence, you must let us know if this is the reason for them being away from school.

If your child is unwell for any other reason and cannot attend school, please follow the normal absence procedure and call the school before 9am to report the reason for them not attending. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they cannot attend school for 48hrs following the last episode of illness.

Lateral Flow Rapid Covid tests for households of school children

Any person over the age of 18 who lives in a household with a child attending school (or a school staff member) is now able to access twice-weekly lateral flow Covid tests, which are carried out in the home. These are similar to the tests which all school staff are currently offered to help detect any asymptomatic cases of Covid. This is another protective measure to avoid the spread of Covid within schools. Some of you will already have access to these tests as part of a work scheme, but if not, you are now able to order tests to be delivered to your home for this purpose (we believe local collection points will also be available soon). The lateral flow tests are not for those who show symptoms - those with Covid symptoms must still book at one of the local testing centres for a 'PCR' test which are more sensitive and accurate. However, use of the lateral flow tests is designed to pick up cases that may otherwise not be known about in people who are carrying the virus, but not showing symptoms.

For information about this scheme and to order home test kits for your household, please follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

We would encourage as many of you as possible to take up this offer as it provides an additional measure to help minimise the risk of Covid spreading within the school and community.

