



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing following the announcement made earlier this week by the Prime Minister in which he signalled all schools are to reopen on 8th March, as we expected. We are truly delighted by this news and were waiting with crossed fingers and toes that this would be the case. You have all coped so well during this lockdown but it is important to recognise that it has certainly taken its toll on us all as we have navigated our way through the last couple of months.

Bringing the children back into school is something we know we can achieve safely now that case numbers have reduced and the spread of the virus is not at the same levels seen in January. You will remember that our preparation for opening after Christmas brought with it a revision to our safer working practices and our Covid Risk Assessment (this can be seen on our school website) and we continue to keep updating these documents to ensure maximum levels of safety for all children and staff in school. On our return on March 8th, we will continue to do all that we have done before to maximise safety of our pupils-the staggered starts and end times remain (please use the times you had previously) at the beginning and end of day, our use of the class bubbles continue and the need to keep washing hands and sanitising will remain. Our rooms will be well ventilated (children may wear additional layers) and the children can still come to school in their PE kits on their allocated PE days to reduce the need for them changing. Staff will continue to maintain social distancing where possible and the children will continue to reduce unnecessary contact with each other. Children will need to wear full school uniform every day and we do appreciate that feet will have grown during the lockdown -if shoes are an issue as they no longer fit and children need to wear alternatives until you can source a replacement, we are happy for children to attend school in other shoes/trainers. Attendance at school is once again compulsory from 8th March unless there is a legitimate reason why your child wouldn't be in school (this would need to be communicated in the usual ways). Arrangements for lunches will revert back to hot school meals being available from 8th March and all meals will be available to book via Good Lookin' Cookin' and their online facilities.

Despite time spent away from school and the social norms that come with it, the connectivity seen from the technology we have implemented and now use so readily and the leaps made in remote learning has meant that our return will be a very different one. There is far less of a 'fear of the unknown' this time as you have our assurance that we will do everything we can to minimise the worries, concerns and anxieties that children, and yourself, may be facing to ensure that our school being open for business means you get to our smiling, happy faces as we welcome you all back to bring our school family together once again. It is important to note however that we have noticed this week that, following the announcement of the return to school, there has been a reduction in the number of children attending the 'live' sessions that are held every day as well as the amount of work being submitted. Please ensure that this next period of time before we return is as fruitful in terms of remote learning engagement as it has been during the lockdown as each day and week is so vital in your child's education and we are expecting engagement levels to remain as we now transition the school back to our full reopening.

Ancaster Church of England Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr Sam Eden



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Staff now regularly test for Covid-19 each week using the lateral flow devices that I wrote to you about previously. Whilst you may have read about children being tested in the media, this is aimed at secondary school pupils and at the moment, there are no plans for children in primary schools to be tested. What we will ask, as always, is that if a child or family member is displaying any of the main symptoms that you remain away from the school site, lockdown your family unit, request a test through the government website and stay away from school until a negative test result has been established. Where isolation periods of any length are needing to be implemented, and a child is fit enough to continue learning, we will continue to use Microsoft Teams for the accessing and returning of school learning set by the Class Teacher. Once we are back at school from 8th March, the online live sessions will not continue.

I will write to you again ahead of the return and look forward to continuing to see everyone in the meantime either in school or online as we edge nearer and ever closer to the 8th March to resume a level of normality and begin to put this lockdown behind us. Should you need anything in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us either by email or by phoning the school.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Sam Eden
Headteacher