

23.02.2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I know that many of you have been eagerly waiting the latest government announcements relating to Covid-19 restrictions; not least the wider reopening of schools. As you will now know, all schools are fully opening to all pupils on Monday 8th March 2021.

This letter is intended to give you an overview of rules and procedures for this reopening and some clarification over some of the hot topics you may be hearing about.

Risk Assessment: Over the next few days taking into account advice from Government and the local authority, I will be updating our Covid-19 risk assessment. A copy of our existing risk assessment as you know is available on our website. <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/download/covid-19-risk-assessment-updated-january-2021/> You will continue to be informed when changes and updates are made to this document. The purpose of the risk assessment is to ensure that we continue to ensure our school environment both inside and outside is as safe as it possibly can be to avoid transmission of Covid-19.

We already have excellent systems and procedures in place which we have been using for a year now including:

- Extra handwashing
- Extra cleaning and sanitising throughout the day and after school
- Pupils remaining in class bubbles
- Toilet facilities for each separate bubble of pupils
- Lunches eaten in bubble groups
- Zoned outdoor play areas
- One-way system and staggered times for parents at drop off and pick up
- Social distancing from those outside your bubble

Masks in school: Primary pupils are not expected to wear face coverings in school. School based staff will continue to wear face coverings. Parents and Carers and any visitors to the school grounds or building will be expected to wear face coverings. Our Covid-19 visitor policy remains in place. <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/download/visitor-policy-during-covid-19/>

Testing in schools: School based staff will continue to voluntarily self-test for Covid-19 twice a week. Primary and Early Years pupils will not be required to take tests unless of course symptoms develop.

Pupil Attendance: School attendance from all pupils unless they have a medical reason for non-attendance from National Health England will be mandatory for all pupils **from 8th March**.

The usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct for unauthorised absences

Remote Learning: The facilities we have for remote learning will continue to be available should any pupils, bubbles of pupils or staff need to isolate in the future. Google Classroom will continue to be used in school and at home even when all children are in school. Your child will be set tasks which you will be made aware of. The Google Classroom pages are also a great way to stay in touch and engaged as parents around the learning your child is working on; along-side our class pages on our website. Please do keep looking and ensuring your child completes all tasks set. For example, there are e-safety 'Think you Know' activities being posted as assignments weekly which the children are expected to complete as part of their home learning.

Our Remote learning offer and policy remain in place and should be referred to in the case of individuals or groups needing to remain at home in the future.
<https://reed.herts.sch.uk/download/remote-learning-policy-october-2020-2/>

Loaned equipment: Any loaned equipment from school should be returned by Friday 12th March according to our loan agreements. Should devices be required in the future, agreements and devices can be reissued to those who need them.

Wrap Around Care: Early Birds and Night Owls will resume from Monday 8th March following our usual hours 8am – 9am and 3.15pm – 5.15pm. If you need to your child to attend either to support your working day, bookings must be sent to admin@reed.herts.sch.uk as soon as possible. We will look to resume other clubs which run after school in the summer term.

Supporting wellbeing:

As you know, as a school we place great importance on the wellbeing of all of our pupils, families and staff. The return to school for some of our community will naturally increase levels of anxiety. As part of our return to school and support for our children, we are moving our Take One Book week to the week of the 8th March which will have a theme of dealing with our feelings and emotions. Further details of the week are to follow. We are also making use of the colour monster in every class to support the children and give them time to share and recognise feelings both positive and negative. As parents, while you will I am sure be pleased to see the return to school for all, you may also be feeling apprehensive. I will be running a Q&A session on Thursday 25th January to answer any questions you may have about the return to school for all pupils. No questions are too small, the chances are if you have a question, someone else will be thinking the same! Alternatively, you can as always email me at head@reed.herts.sch.uk or call me for a chat.

What to do on Monday 8th March:

For those of you coming back to school on the 8th, you will notice on your return that the systems we had in place before the lockdown are still in use. You will arrive at your allocated time and come through the entrance gate following our one-way system. All adults do need to wear masks now at drop off and pick up. It is very important that you stick to the times you have been given. The gate will not be opened in the morning until 8.45am so if you have the first drop off slot please do not gather with others but wait in your car or at a good distance for the right time. The same applies at the end of the day where the gate will be opened at 3.00pm.

The children will need to bring their usual kit to school:

- Book-bag, reading book and home school communication book
- Healthy snack for Y3 up (younger years have fruit provided)
- Clear sports top water bottle
- PE kit including trainers
- Welly boots
- Water proof Coat

The children will continue to remain in their bubbles as last term. The kitchen is fully operational and lunches are being provided as usual.

I will be sending allocated time reminder emails to you individually.

I hope that the information is useful and reassuring. Finally, thank you for your unwavering support for your children and the school. We really look forward to see everyone in person on the 8th!

Very best wishes,

Mrs Wittich