

Dear Parent and Carers,

On behalf of all the schools within the Tandridge Learning Trust we were pleased to hear the confirmation from the Prime Minister earlier this week, that all pupils will be returning to school from 8 March. During the course of this week and next we will be putting our plans in place to ensure the return is as smooth and safe as possible and we will continue to follow the updated government guidance provided.

This latest lockdown period has been very difficult for everyone and we recognise the strain this puts on families and resources. As a Trust we have worked very hard to ensure that those who absolutely need to be in school during lockdown have been able to attend, whilst those who have been able to work from home have been provided with a high-quality remote learning offer which has met their needs. We have listened to your feedback and have come a long way since the first lockdown last March. The personal interaction between staff and pupils, whether on or off site, has been a great testament to the care and commitment shown by our staff across every school and we can't thank them enough for this.

We are all mindful that this pandemic is not behind us yet and that we must proceed with caution in the coming weeks to reduce the possibility that the return to school might cause an increase in cases. Although testing of pupils is voluntary in our secondary school, we strongly encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme for older pupils and to please complete the consent forms which have been sent out. This will help to break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

All staff now have access to Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week, which will also support our identification of cases and help to keep staff and pupils safe. We also ask that all parents remain vigilant with regard to any Covid related symptoms, if you have any doubts please do not send your child to school but instead seek a local-based PCR test and self-isolate, please keep the school informed of the outcome of that test.

Our previous request to all parents to wear face coverings when coming on to school sites for drop off or collection remains in place and we hope you will continue to support us with this. The updated guidance also confirms the increased use of face coverings where appropriate in all areas where social distancing is hard to maintain. Further information related to this will be shared by each school as we make any further amendments to our risk assessments.

It is also important to note that the DfE have announced that school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. Please keep your school informed about any concerns you may have in relation to this. For those pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) and remain shielding the school may need to request a copy of their shielding letter.

Please see this updated DfE [guidance](#) for what parents and carers need to know about early years providers and schools during COVID-19 and the associated arrangements for testing and the system of controls.

The positive news around the vaccine roll-out is giving us all hope for better days ahead. As always, we will be doing everything we can to ensure our schools are operating safely and effectively for both pupils and staff as we move to all pupils returning from 8 March. We look forward to welcoming everyone back.

Kind regards



Rebecca Plaskitt