

23 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of Spring 4 and hopefully seeing the light at the end of the tunnel!

As you probably already know, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's response to coronavirus, including where restrictions on attendance at educational settings can be lifted – whoop whoop! The decision to ease restrictions has been made on the balance of risk to public health and educational considerations.

Therefore, all the children are very warmly invited to come back to school on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> March anytime from 8.45am onwards. Please remember that school officially starts at **8.55am**, so try not to be late! The government have also made it very clear that from this date onwards **school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils** and have asked all schools to pass that information on to parents. I am hoping that all the children will be looking forward to coming back too, but if anyone is struggling then please do let us know and we will work together to hopefully have a smooth transfer successfully in place before the Easter holidays. Please can you return any Chrome Books, chargers etc that you have borrowed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March too. Thank you!

Apparently, based on recent ONS data, the risks to education and childcare staff are similar to those for most other occupations. However, it does still remain vital that we try to minimise any risks within school. The biggest move forward for staff is the testing regime. It has made such a difference to us all. I have received a letter from Derbyshire County Council this morning saying that they are expecting to get more information from the DfE by the 25<sup>th</sup> February and will hopefully get that out to us by the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. So, with this in mind I will hold off updating plans etc for you until I receive more guidance from them. Please watch this space!

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and encouragement during the whole of this pandemic to date; you have all been so fantastic and it has really helped the morale around school. Hopefully you have felt supported by us too. Thank you for all the responses to the Governor's questionnaire filled in so far. I am hoping that we will not have to go into lockdown again, but it is interesting to know your views for us to learn from.

I will be back in touch as soon as I am able to, but for now, I am just incredibly happy at the thought of seeing all of the children back in school again.

Leonie Boulton