

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Wider re-opening of schools – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

We are writing to explain the arrangements for the re-opening of St John's Primary School from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. We are very pleased to be in the position where we can welcome all children back into school and are currently in the process of revising our risk assessment and planning to ensure that the re-opening goes as smoothly as possible.

The Department for Education has updated its guidance to schools. For primary schools, the requirements and control measures remain broadly the same with a strengthening of measures such as social distancing and the wearing of face masks by adults.

The latest government guidance for parents/carers is available [here](#).

The points we would particularly like to draw to your attention are:

#### **1. Testing**

Staff are encouraged to continue to take two rapid COVID-19 tests each week at home using a lateral flow device (LFD). Any staff member who tests positive on a LFD will be required to self-isolate and book a PCR test. There will be no testing of children in primary schools. If a child develop symptoms however, he/she should isolate at home and get a test

#### **2. Start and finish of the school day**

It remains important that only one adult from each family attends school each time to drop off or pick up children. They should maintain a safe distance of at least two metres from other adults and wear a face mask whilst on the school site or in the vicinity of the school

#### **3. Social distancing and face-to-face contact**

The definition of social distance remains the same but there is increased emphasis on its importance. This applies particularly to adults in primary school settings. Face-to-face meetings will be kept to an absolute minimum and virtual meetings will continue wherever possible. If you wish to speak to a member of staff please contact the school office

#### **4. Wearing of face coverings**

In primary schools, it is recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering

## 5. Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory (compulsory) for all pupils from 8<sup>th</sup> March. The usual rules on school attendance will apply. The exception to this is children who have been identified as being clinically extremely vulnerable and advised by the NHS to shield

## 6. Remote Learning

We will continue to provide a remote learning package for children who are self-isolating because they are clinically extremely vulnerable, or a member of their household, have symptoms or have tested positive

We do appreciate that some children and families may be anxious about the return to school. This is entirely understandable and we will do what we can to ensure that children have a positive start. Staff will deal sensitively with this and will assess where each individual child is, both academically and emotionally, so they can be helped to get back on track as quickly as possible. To help us in this process, we have re-designed the questionnaire we used at the start of this school year and would be grateful if you would complete and return it. The questionnaire is available at [Return to School - Well Being Questionnaire](#). That said, we are delighted that the majority of children have engaged really well with the home learning programme and are well placed to return. Many thanks to all the adults who have supported us with this.

As always, our planning for re-opening is guided by a rigorous risk assessment process. The full risk assessment document will be available on our trust website ([www.wellswaymat.com](http://www.wellswaymat.com)) by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, should you wish to view it.

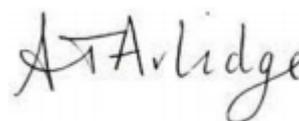
Please accept our thanks in advance for your support with the measures we are taking to re-open our school safely. If you have any questions please email [enquiries@stjohnskeynsham.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnskeynsham.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,



**Mrs Graham**

**Headteacher**



**Andrea Arlidge**

**Chief Executive**