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Friday, 26 February 2021

Full school opening arrangements from 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will likely be aware, the Prime Minister has announced that all school-age pupils will return to full-time on-site provision from Monday 8th March 2021. We know that many of you have been waiting patiently for this, thank you! We are as excited as you are to have our schools back open and filled with children. We would like to take this opportunity to outline our arrangements for full opening prior to the 8th March. Pleasingly, things will feel very familiar upon your return. Very little needs to change due to the rigorous safety plan that we were all following pre lockdown.

Attendance

From Monday the 8th March, attendance is mandatory for all pupils. This means that you as parents do not have the option to withdraw your children and keep them at home. If your child is following public health advice, e.g. they are shielding or have coronavirus, you will not be penalised for any non-attendance. Pupils not attending for these reasons will continue to receive remote education, where appropriate.

Understandably some of you will have some worries about this return. If your child is required to attend the school site but you are anxious or concerned, please get in touch with the school office and they can put you in touch with someone who can discuss your worries in more detail and provide any reassurance you need.

Pick up and drop off

Pick up and drop off routines remain similar to what they were pre lockdown in order to keep each other safe on site and to minimise any unnecessary contact between parents and pupil groups. Given that we are blessed with large grounds, we are going to operate our drop off and pick up times as follows, there is no longer a window to drop off or collect so please ensure that you are prompt for the times below:

Nursery AM	08:35 – 11:35
Nursery PM	12:15 – 15:15
Nursery 30 Hours	08:35 – 15:15
Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	08:50 – 15:15

- Routes in, around and out of the school must be followed by all
- Face coverings worn by all parents/carers whilst on school site
- Maximum of one parent on site at any given time
- No visitors to the school office
- No waiting around on the school site, bring the children in/collect them for the designated start/finish time

Protective measures

We want to reassure you that the schools have reimplemented a number of protective measures to keep your child safe upon their return to the school site. We have updated our risk assessment to reflect any changes in circumstances pertaining to the full return of pupils and will communicate any future changes to you as and when we make them. You can see our risk assessment on our school websites under the coronavirus page. In order to assist us in minimising risk of infection, please ensure your child is only bringing essential items to the school site each day and that these are in one bag.

Happy children learn, happy staff thrive, happy parents build a community



Staff testing

Staff have been offered rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) tests to check for asymptomatic cases of coronavirus. The test have been provided so staff can carry out twice weekly asymptomatic testing. Testing is not mandatory but is strongly recommended by the government and has been well adopted by the staff. If a staff member tests negative in the LFD tests, they can continue to attend school, unless they start to display symptoms of coronavirus. If the staff member receives a positive LFD test result, they will begin to self-isolate immediately and book a confirmatory NHS test. Thank you to the school staff for their ongoing support in helping to create a safer school environment for our community.

Technology & Resources at Home

Many families have loaned electronic devices from the schools. Please can these be returned to school (to your child's class teacher) at your earliest possible opportunity. Please return these in a plastic bag along with their charger and anything else you were provided with from the school.

Out-of-school activities

APEX sports clubs will continue as after school clubs. You will be sent a letter separately regarding these arrangements.

There will be no before school sports clubs run by our APEX coaches.

Little Rascals out of hours club will contact parents separately regarding their arrangements.

Reminders of Reporting Covid-19

We must not forget that the virus is still out there in our community. If anyone in your household develops any of the following three symptoms, **your whole household must isolate** and you need to arrange testing immediately.

- **a high temperature** – this means you or your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature, but if your child's temperature is over 38 degrees, this qualifies as a high temperature in addition to the feeling hot to touch on their chest or back)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you or your child usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you or your child cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If someone in your household tests positive - all members of your household and anyone the positive case has had close contact with must isolate for 10 days from last contact- this may include your support / childcare bubble. It is essential that you inform us about any positive coronavirus cases or symptoms of anyone in your household/bubble.

A full return to school is certainly a hugely positive step forwards and hopefully the start of a return to normality. Thank you parents/carers for your amazing work, we know home schooling has not been easy. Thank you also to our brilliant staff for their phenomenal work. Lastly well done to the children - we can't wait to have you back!

If you have any queries, or would like to speak to someone, please get in touch with your child's school office.

Thank you,

James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School
Cheska Tyler – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School

“Inspiring and nurturing our children and their community to be the very best they can be!”

