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Friday, 26 February 2021

## Full school opening arrangements from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are probably aware, the Prime Minister has announced that all school-age pupils will return to full-time on-site provision from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> March. Things will feel very familiar upon your return as very little needs to change due to the rigorous safety plan that we were all following pre lockdown.

### Attendance

From Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 contact 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 the same as they did pre lockdown in order to keep each other safe on site and to minimise any unnecessary contact between parents and pupil groups:

- Routes in, around and out of the school must be followed by all. It is **entry only** through the main gate and **exit only** through the woodland gate. The Sussex Road gate will also be open.
- Face coverings worn by all parents/carers whilst on school site.
- Maximum of one parent on site at any given time. Please collect your children and leave promptly.
- No visitors to the school office - please call or email if you need to get in touch.
- Staggered start and finish times (shown below)

	Drop off time	Pick up
Year 1	0830	1450
Year 2	0835	1455
Year 5 and 6	0845	1505
Reception	0840	1500
Year 3 and 4	0850	1510
Nursery AM	0835	1135
Nursery PM	1215	1515
Nursery (30 hours)	0835	1515

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



## PE days

Please can the children continue to wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Reception and Year 1</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Year 3 and Year 5</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Year 6</b>

## 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. We have updated our risk assessment to reflect the changes in government documents about the full return of pupils, and will communicate any future changes to you as and when we make them. You can read our risk assessment on our school website 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.

## Staff testing

Staff have been offered rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) tests to check for asymptomatic cases of coronavirus. The test has 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. We thank 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 been loaned electronic devices from the school. **Please can they be returned to school with the charger on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and given to your child's class teacher.** Please can you ensure they are wiped clean before they are returned to school.

## Out-of-school activities

Our breakfast and afterschool provision will resume from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. After school sports clubs for specific year groups will also start again.

## 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 remote learning 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.

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

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

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