



Dear Parents and Carers

Following the government announcement regarding the full reopening of schools please find below details outlining Riverdale's return plan. We can't wait to see everyone back together once again!

### When should my child return back to school?

All pupils will return on Monday 8th March 2021.

In readiness for the return, we have updated our Risk Assessments and consulted with staff in which we have discussed how school will operate when all of our children return. Staff have received updated training on PPE and the policies that need to be in place for the return; these will continue to be developed in light of the Government's developing guidance.

### How will dropping off and picking up work from March 8th?

Start/End times of the school day will remain the same;

#### FS/KS1

Nursery = 8:45am – 11:45am

Reception = 8:50am – 2:50pm

Year 1 = 8:55am – 2:55pm

Year 2 = 9am – 3pm

#### KS2

Year 3 = 8:45am – 2:45pm

Year 4 = 8:50am – 2:50pm

Year 5 = 8:55am – 2:55pm

Year 6 = 9am – 3pm

Face coverings must be worn by all adults on and around the school site, at all times. (Unless exempt)

Please be aware that you will not be able to speak to your child's teacher at drop off/collection. You will need to make an appointment with the office or pass messages to the office, preferable by phone. Emails or the School Gateway App can be used if a less urgent message or response is required. There is only one person allowed in the office reception area at a time. There are markings outside the office entrance, to indicate where you should wait.

No scooters or bikes to be brought on to the school site.

Please be aware of social distancing rules on and around our site. It is important you follow timings strictly and leave site as soon as you can to avoid congestion. There are 2 one-way systems for parents and carers accessing the school site. Please follow the instructions to help us manage the number of people at any one time. We encourage walking to and from school but recognise that driving to school is unavoidable for some families. If this is the case, please park with care and respect our neighbours.

### Can my child walk to school unaccompanied?

Yes, if they are Year 6 and you have informed us of your decision. All other pupils should be accompanied to & from school by an adult. Year 6 parents should ensure that their child travels directly to/from school, as other restrictions on social mixing remain in place.

### Should children wear school uniform?

Arrangements will be as they were at the end of the Autumn Term. Your child should wear their normal school uniform on the top half but black/grey joggers (NO LEGGINGS) should be worn instead of trousers/skirts & black trainers should be worn instead of school shoes.

### What will lunchtime provision look like?

As in the autumn term, FS/KS1 children will eat in the hall in their year groups & KS2 will eat in their classrooms. Those who have a school meal will pre-order their meal with their teacher on a daily or weekly basis. If your child would like to change their meal arrangements please let the office know by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### Will children be able to attend Breakfast Club?

Breakfast club will be available to be booked as normal via the School Gateway App. Please remember to book before 7pm the night before each session. Breakfast Club is open to all children in Nursery to Year 6, starting from 7:45am each morning (please arrive by 8:10am if your child would like breakfast) and the normal £1 charge will apply per session.

### How will school continue to maintain 'social distancing' and other protective measures when all the children return in March?

Arrangements will be as they were at the end of the Autumn Term.

Pupils of Primary Age do not need to wear a face mask.

Some key elements of our organisation are highlighted below:

- Face Masks must be worn by all adults whilst on & around the school site (unless exempt)
- Visitors will be allowed into the school building by appointment only.
- Guidance states that children in primary schools do not need to social distance, but we will maintain enhanced cleaning regimes and avoid mixing groups wherever practicable.
- Children will remain in year group bubbles.
- Play areas will be marked outside, so that year groups know where they can play.

As before, children will continue to need to wash their hands: on arrival, before lunch and throughout the school day. Hand sanitiser is available in all classrooms, for when access to a sink is not practicable. Cleaning routines will be increased, so that there is more frequent cleaning of shared areas which prioritise touch points throughout the day.

## Arrangements for teaching

Following government guidance, children will stay within their year group bubbles. Teachers and other staff will wear face masks when within 2m of your child. Teachers will also take learning outside where appropriate. Children should not bring anything from home except what it is essential. We plan to make sure all the children settle down quickly into the routine of school through lots of praise and positive Thrive activities. Although staff are permitted to move between bubbles, we have planned to limit this as much as possible.

## How will Homework be organised?

We will continue to allow children to choose reading books at the start of the week, these will then need to be returned each Friday to allow for quarantining before they are allowed to be used by others. Online activities will be shared via Seesaw to support reading at weekends. We will continue to use Seesaw for additional homework, as parents and pupils have responded positively during the lockdown period to using this.

## Are you testing pupils for Covid-19 at Riverdale, like they are at Secondary Schools?

We will not be testing children at this time, this follows the most recent guidance given from the Department for Education.

## Are you testing staff or parents for Covid-19 at Riverdale?

All our staff and regular visitors (such as our catering staff) have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing made available to them via school. Teaching and non-teaching staff will take twice-weekly tests using home test kits provided. This includes permanent, temporary and voluntary school staff.

Households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils are also encouraged to take a test.

### **How to get a rapid lateral flow test**

There are different ways to get a test for school staff, pupils, and members of their households, childcare and support bubbles in England who do not have symptoms of coronavirus.

### **Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils**

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site

- by ordering a home test kit online

### **Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site**

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)

### **Collect test kits**

You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

## **If you or your child has coronavirus symptoms**

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, arrange to have a PCR test if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home self-sampling kit, a test site appointment or a test result. Do not use the rapid lateral flow testing service as this is only for people without symptoms.

[Order a test for people with symptoms](#) online or call 119.

## **Other questions?**

Thank you for taking the time to read all of the information in this letter. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact school via one of the normal communication methods.

We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday!

Yours Sincerely

Mrs K Reilly  
**Head Teacher**