



EMMBROOK JUNIOR SCHOOL



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Head Teacher: Mr J Usher

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

No doubt you are aware of the announcement made by the Prime Minister yesterday regarding the **return of all children to school from Monday 8th of March**. As a school, we are currently reviewing the updated operational guidance from the Government and Department for Education so that we can ensure we are meeting not only our obligations to the children from an educational standpoint but also so that we can **return all children to class as safely as possible**. I'm sure you appreciate that this will require a large degree of planning and as such we are already updating our own risk assessment as well as liaising with the governing board, the Infant School and other community stakeholders about the best way we can approach this.

We will be in communication with you regarding the expectations and requirements in terms of what children should and should not bring into school; how break and lunchtimes will work; the support we will need in terms of pick-up and drop-off; what additional controls we will be putting in place to reduce the chances of transmission further, along with any other relevant information. We will be doing our best to keep you informed throughout the process and will be sharing our updated risk assessment with you as soon as possible along with plans for how the day to day running of the school will work. The guidance does require me to inform you **that school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from the 8th of March** and the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

I know that while many parents will be pleased and looking forward to the return of all children to school, not only from an educational point of view but for mental health and well-being reasons, **there will also be a large number of parents & carers deeply concerned** about their children returning to school. I ask you to take this into consideration when you are discussing the return to school both publicly and privately as well as when you are on the school site for drop-offs and pick-ups.

I would like to thank all the parents and carers for their uplifting and positive messages regarding our remote learning provision. You are all obviously aware that while not all children have been in school – all teachers and staff have continued to work incredibly hard to provide both the remote provision as well as face to face learning for the children of key workers. This change back to full attendance will have an impact on staff anxiety as well as children and parents.

We will be sending out further information over the coming days in advance of the children's return to school. In the meantime, the remote education provision that has been in place will continue until the children return on the 8th of March.

I thank you for your continued resilience and patience – the pandemic has forced all of us to embrace the Emmbrook Junior School value of being adaptable.

Regards,

Mr J Usher
Head Teacher