



Spring Common Academy

American Lane
Huntingdon
Cambs.
PE29 1TQ
Head of School: Julia McIntosh
School Telephone: 01480 377403
office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk
www.springcommon.cambs.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Reopening of schools 8th March 2021

Following the Prime Minister's announcement for the full reopening of schools from 8th March, I wanted to send you this update.

1. Attendance:

The risks of children not attending school to their development, mental health and wellbeing are strong reasons for all pupils returning to school.

Attendance from 8th March is mandatory which means all children need to return back to school except the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV). I appreciate that there may be exceptional cases where a phased return might be preferred due to mental health issues and anxieties which have arisen. These arrangements will be considered on a case by case basis in conversation with parents/carers and the school. This process will be managed through a multi-agency risk assessment, taking into account any safeguarding concerns.

Following national guidelines the school will be monitoring and tracking attendance from 8th March.

Our transport arrangements and providers remain the same and we will continue to offer pupils and families full time provision. An updated list will be provided to the transport department in discussion with parents.

2. Covid-19 Protective Measures:

We have updated our risk assessment and operational procedures in relation to the latest government guidance and evidence, these will shortly be available on our website. We have been advised to maintain tight bubble arrangements up to Easter. Your child's class teacher will be happy to discuss these arrangements with you.

Face coverings may still be worn in crowded areas inside the school and on transport by our secondary age pupils, where they are able, to mitigate risk of transmission. We are not changing our risk assessment on face coverings in school in relation to pupils because they are exempt due to their special needs.

Spring Common Academy is part of Spring Common Academy Trust

Executive Head Teacher: Dr Kim Taylor OBE Tel: 01480 377404



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3. Test and Trace:

Mass testing for Covid-19 is now available. At school we have a test centre for lateral flow tests for staff Mondays and Thursdays, which is optimum for surveillance of the virus. We will again encourage parents and carers to support the national testing programme in school for secondary and post 16 pupils when they return and parents may contact us if they wish to support their children at the test centre. Parents/carers should know that after 3 lateral flow tests completed 3-5 days apart in school they may opt into a scheme for home testing kits. We will provide further information shortly.

4. Provision:

The government guidance reminds us that pupils need to have a broad and balanced curriculum. I will be talking to staff about when we can begin to introduce some specialist sessions and provision following government guidance, but this will not be from 8th March. Swimming however can continue.

Remote learning will continue to be available only for pupils who are shielding due to being CEV or self-isolating.

We have continued with our Education Health and Care plans throughout the Covid-19 period to maintain our statutory duties. We will need to continue to co-produce arrangements for the delivery of therapies and provision with other professionals.

We will soon be able to restart our after school club and will plan with the staff and parents/carers for this to happen going forward. We will send further information about this. All residential visits, offsite and educational visits will not restart on 8th March. The Prime Minister was very clear that there would be evaluation points after each stage of the road map and that dates provided for activities to restart are currently advisory.

5. The Situation Locally:

We know that local Public Health data is showing a reduction of Covid-19 transmission in all age groups. We continue to track local data as part of the local contingency framework, should any further guidance be provided from the Local Authority or PHE we would let you know.

Staff at Spring Common Academy have had Covid-19 vaccinations and the 2nd doses are planned, which reduces risk to staff and transmission. As you know from the media, the wider roll-out of vaccination for the full adult population is planned by the NHS.



6. Financial Support:

We have been asked to remind you that any vouchers from the Winter Grant Scheme need to be used by the middle of March or they will be withdrawn.

Free School meal support will be available for pupils who are shielding due to being CEV or those self-isolating.

It has been lovely to welcome more children back into school this week and we look forward to seeing the majority of our pupils from 8th March. Although there is a glimmer of hope that we can return to normal in the future, we still have some hurdles to overcome.

Please raise any concerns you have about arrangements for 8th March with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Thank you again for your support throughout these difficult times.

Yours sincerely



Julia McIntosh
Head of School

