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Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

### Full School Reopening

I am sure the prime minister's announcement this afternoon that schools will fully reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March came as a huge relief to you (as it did to me), after your incredible efforts with remote learning and juggling employment demands- and particularly the essential work that our front line critical workers are carrying out. I also realise that the announcement may also give you additional questions or anxieties.

This evening the Department for Education (DfE) has circulated updated guidance for schools which applies from 08/03/2021, answering several of the questions we had as a school. On first reading, the systems of control we already have in place seem set to remain for now, such as:

- Staggered starts and finishes
- Allocated entrance/ exit points for different classes
- Limited access to the school site for visitors
- Face coverings to be worn by staff
- Additional handwashing routines
- Social distancing where possible
- Limited social contact through class 'bubbles', including staggered breaks and lunch times
- Enhanced cleaning routines
- Limiting the equipment children bring to school
- Limiting the equipment children share in school

We still have other questions, including arrangements for special events visits, visitors and residentials, and I fully expect further information about systems of control in the coming days. I will update you as and when I am able, and will ensure you have full and clear details of the final arrangements for school's full reopening ahead of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. However it is reassuring to know that we have a strong, proven base on which to build.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and support. I look forward to safely welcoming all the children back to school next month.

Yours sincerely

**Helen Carpenter**  
Head teacher