

GEORGE ROMNEY JUNIOR SCHOOL



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Dear parents, carers and families,

As you will have no doubt heard across all media streams, the government is proposing that *all* schools are to open for *all* children from **Monday 8th March**. This expectation for secondary schools is slightly different as they have to accommodate the testing of all children before they can attend school on-site. As a staff we are really looking forward to welcoming your child back to school! In an ideal world, we would have preferred a more cautious approach and maybe staggering the return of all children over a number of weeks but we are where we are!

We have now received the new guidance from DfE and as you would expect, myself, the staff and governors have been working to put together a plan for a system that keeps children, staff and all their families as safe as possible within the guidance provided. Broadly speaking, we are planning a return to face-to-face learning for all children within similar guidelines that existed during the autumn term. This means that control measures will be fully in place for all staff and all children from Monday 8th March. As always, we will continue to monitor their impact and review them in line with government guidance and any other local advice from Cumbria County Council.

I will send out a full reminder to each class bubble group next week regarding start and finish times, PE days, uniforms and other expectations etc. The main message I want you to have from us all today is that we know that all children have found aspects of this latest lockdown challenging and we are here to help. There is a lot of talk about 'catch-up', extended learning days and summer schools in the media at the moment. Our priority is your child's well-being and them having a positive and successful return to school. We will of course be focusing on how to help them with their academic progress and the staff have planned some fantastic activities to help with this; but we are *not* looking at what we have 'missed out on' but what we can build on next!



Our priorities for the following weeks are very similar to those we had in September:

- *we want the return to school to be a successful and positive re-connection with learning for all children*
- *we want all children and families to feel confident we are doing the very best we can to keep children, staff and all their families as safe as possible*
- *we want to support all children in their individual needs that they may have in relation to their emotional well-being and good mental health*
- *we want to make the most of opportunities such as re-enforcing learning at home through daily reading practise, regular homework and online resources*

We will provide breakfast club and after-school care for children from **Monday 8th March** – Mrs Jackson will be happy to take new bookings for these from next week. I hope that many of you will want to take advantage of these services; both clubs can provide help to working parents but also provide additional social interaction for any child who has missed their friends over the last few months...

There is a lot more information to share with you regarding the safe and successful return to school; I will do this early next week for each class to make it as clear and specific as possible!

I hope you are able to enjoy what should be a warm and sunny weekend!

DR

David Reddy
(Headteacher)

