

**Breakspeare School**

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23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The Prime Minister announced yesterday (Monday 22 February) that the Government has set out its plan for the return of all pupils to schools and colleges, as part of the roadmap for leaving lockdown.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL ON 8TH MARCH

All schools will return to face-to-face education on Monday 8 March. **School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils**, with secondary schools and colleges able to phase return over the week of 8 March to allow students to be offered testing on return.

Pupils and students who are self-isolating because they are following public health advice should not attend school or college. Those pupils and students who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are also currently advised not to attend whilst shielding remains in place. Any pupils or students not attending their setting should receive remote education.

CONCERNS ABOUT SENDING YOUR CHILD BACK TO SCHOOL

We understand that we will have a small number of families who remain concerned about sending their child to school.

Please contact admin offices and let us know by end of the week e.g. Friday 26th February if you

- Will not be sending your child back school on 8th March and what plans you have for his/her return to school

We are committed to support your child reintegration to school in liaison with you.

- Please note that unless there is a mutually agreed school reintegration plan in place, your child's absence from school will be unauthorised.

RED, ORANGE AND SILVER CLASSES STAFFING SITUATION AT BREAKSPEARE

We are looking forward having all of our students back to school. However, we know that until the end of spring term we will have significant staffing issues in Red, Silver and Orange classes at Breakspeare. This is because there will be more than one member of staff shielding in each of these classes. Obviously we will do our best to manage the staffing challenges by using our staff across the school/s but this may be very difficult considering a number of staff shielding and impact of other possible 'day to day absences'.

LATERAL TESTING

The staff of the Sunflower Federation are participating in a lateral testing programme twice per week. For **Breakspeare School** (classified in this context as a secondary school) staff and pupils (where appropriate) we are moving from a school based lateral testing to a home testing model. The lateral flow devices used in Home Self-Test Kits have received regulatory approval from the MHRA for self-use. Home test kits will be available for all staff in due course.

Once pupils have been tested three times at school, they will be provided with home test kits for regular testing. Testing remains voluntary but strongly encouraged; no child or young person will be tested unless informed consent has been given by the appropriate person and the child, and a young person is willing to be tested

- If you wish your secondary age young person at Breakspeare to join lateral testing scheme please let the admin office and your child's teacher know

Meadow Wood School (primary school) staff already have access to home testing kits.

VACCINATION SCHEME

In Hertfordshire, all SEN schools' staff have been offered an opportunity to join NHS and care sector's vaccination scheme. The vast majority of The Sunflower Federation staff (96%) had their first vaccination last week and will have their second vaccination around May bank holiday weekend.

NEXT STEPS for us at Breakspeare and Meadow Wood Schools

1. Plan organisation and operations in our schools considering a number of students in each of our classes and available staffing for the week commencing 8th March
2. Review and update our health and safety risk assessments in line of guidance from the LA, PH and DfE
3. Secure contingency planning for any local outbreak or changes in restrictions
4. Communicate our plans and risk assessment with our parents and staff by end of next week.

In order for us to make sufficient operational plans effectively and quickly, please communicate with our admin teams as soon as possible (by Fri this week)

- If you would like your child to have a reintegration plan for phased return to school
- If you would like your secondary age child to join the lateral testing scheme

It is very exciting to receive all positive news of the gradual process of leaving lockdown. Thank you for your continued support. I'm confident that by working closely together we can provide our students with support they need at this extraordinary challenging time.

Very best wishes,
Merja

Please note the following additional information:

New physical and neurological impairment advice line

SEND specialist support service will be offering additional help as part of their advice line. Every Monday afternoon from 13:30 to 16:00 term time only, the advice line will be available to answer enquiries and offer advice for parents / carers and professionals for matters relating to physical and neurological impairment.

The SEND specialist advice and support service line telephone number is 01442 453920.

ADDITIONAL GUIDNANCE

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings?utm_source=22%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

RAPID FLOW TESTING

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

Tips for Teams and ZOOM meetings

<https://www.techability.org.uk/resources/aiding-learning-from-home/>

REMOTE LEARNING GUIDNACE PARENTS

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

ONLINE SAFETY

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online?utm_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

SUPPORTING CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Mental health

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

COVID 19 resources

<http://www.thesensoryprojects.co.uk/covid19-resources>

ASD and self-isolation tips (suitable for any child or young person with SEN)

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/attachemnt/Supporting%20Children%20with%20LD%20%26%20ASD%20with%20COVID%20Isolation.pdf>

Under 5s

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send>

