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Dear Parent/Carers,

A heartfelt thank you!

I wanted to start with a thank you to you and your children for your hard work and support over this last period of lockdown, since 5 January 2021.

We know how hard our pupils and families have worked to engage with learning at home and we are **so grateful** to all of our pupils and families for their amazing effort, hard work and determination and for doing their very best! However, we know home learning is not the same as being in school and we can't wait to get back to life in the classroom together!

We have missed all our pupils and families so much!

We are so pleased that our school is able to reopen to all pupils on Monday 8 March 2021 and we can't wait to welcome our pupils back! We have missed all our pupils so much and we know how much our pupils have missed each other too!

Mandatory school attendance from Monday 8 March 2021

On 22 February 2021 the government announced that school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils for all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16 years) from Monday 8 March 2021. This means that all pupils will be expected to return to school unless they are clinically extremely vulnerable.

The usual rules on school attendance will apply from 8 March, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

As usual, schools are responsible for recording attendance, following up absence and reporting children missing education to the local authority.

First day back

The first day back for our pupils is Monday 8 March and at the start of next week we will be in a position to confirm start and end times for each year group and class. I can confirm that we won't be staggering our return and will be welcoming all children back to the academy on this day.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

The Department for Education has said that all pupils should return to school on Monday 8 March unless they have a letter to say they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and should

continue shielding, or they are one of the very small number of pupils under paediatric or other NHS care who have also been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend school. We are really sorry that some of our pupils may not be able to return to school straight away because of their health needs. We will continue to work with any of our pupils who cannot return yet, to ensure they feel as involved in school as possible and we will continue to provide remote learning.

INSET day postponed

In light of this government update, and our intention to commit fully to supporting the return of all learners, we have postponed the trustwide INSET day that was planned for 17 March until Monday 19 April. This is so that we can dedicate our time in the coming weeks to supporting our children to re-engage with learning and with their peers.

Exciting curriculum plans afoot!

Having reviewed our return processes after the previous two lockdown periods we are confident that we will be welcoming our children back to a safe and calm environment. We are making plans to alter and adapt our curriculum to meet their needs and staff are going to receive dedicated time to plan an exciting curriculum for the first week back which will enable children the opportunity to share their lockdown experiences and get used to learning in school, alongside their peers, once more. We are also making safe plans for them to play together and enjoy social times in their class bubbles to reignite the social element of school, which we know many have missed.

I will be writing to you at the start of next week with more detailed plans for drop off/pick up/wraparound care and the school day and also some further details about what learning in school will look like so that you can talk with your children about our plans from 8 March.

Thank you once again for your support during this very difficult time.

We can't wait to welcome you all back!

Miss Richardson
Executive Principal