



25 February 2021

Dear Parents

I am delighted that I am writing to share our plans for the full re-opening of Bede's Prep on Monday 8 March. We are committed to getting the children back into normal routines, and back to learning, as soon and as safely as possible. As always, we will follow the guidance issued by the DfE, the full detail of which can be found [here](#). Our updated health and safety protocols can be found on our website. In essence, we will be reopening under the same systems and controls from the Autumn Term, with the amendments listed below as required by the latest guidance.

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

- you have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
 - *a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
 - *a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
 - *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*
- a member of your household (including someone in your support bubble or childcare bubble if you have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- you are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- you have had a positive test. You must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:
 - the start of your symptoms
 - the test date if you did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

Arrangements for Lateral Flow Testing of pupils in Years 7 and 8

The use of lateral flow testing for pupils of secondary school age is a useful tool for identifying asymptomatic cases in the school community. **Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will be offered a lateral flow test prior to the return to school on Friday 5th March**, and although this is entirely voluntary we strongly encourage all children to take the tests in order to protect all in our community. The children will be supported by our outstanding Prep nurses and teachers, who have been fully trained and have been carrying out tests on key worker pupils and staff during the lockdown period. Following the first test at school, children will be offered two more tests within 5 days. After these 3 tests on site, pupils will be provided with weekly test-at-home kits for ongoing use through the term.

In order to support our planning for the testing and return of pupils, please could I ask that all parents of children in Years 7 and 8 complete the [Bede's Consent Form for COVID 19 Testing](#) by Monday 1 March. (The Terms of Consent and Privacy Statement are attached with this newsletter). Following this, we will communicate further detailed arrangements for testing next week.

Arrangements for Monday 8 March

Pupils should return to school as normal for an 8.15am start on Monday 8 March, and enter the school through the same entrances as the Autumn Term. School buses will run as normal for these pupils.

Transport

School buses will run as normal on the morning of Monday 8 March. **All pupils should be wearing face masks when using school buses unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed with the Headmaster.**

Face Coverings in lessons

Updated Government guidance now requires all pupils in Years 7 and 8 to wear face coverings in lessons, in addition to when they are moving around the school in communal areas. Face coverings can be removed for outdoor break times, meal times and for sport.

The School Day and Catering

The school day will run as normal for all pupils and children will follow their normal timetable, as per the Autumn Term. The activities programme will run as usual with some minor adjustments, set out below. We will be providing catering services from Monday 8 March, in line with the health and safety protocols set out in the Autumn Term.

Blended Learning

It is our strong belief that the best place for children is back at school where they are able to benefit from the full range of social, well-being, practical and physical aspects of school life. Government guidance is clear that the return to school is compulsory for all pupils. However, we recognise that some pupils may not be able to return to the UK due to travel restrictions (see below) and others may be required to isolate as needed. The school will continue to offer remote learning solutions for those who are unable to attend school due to these specific reasons, as was the case in the Autumn Term.

Following on from my previous letter and in order to facilitate this, **Year 7 will be asked to bring their own devices to school when they return on 8 March.** Teachers will continue to make wide use of Google Classroom in order to build on the excellent skills that pupils have developed over the past year, and in order to enable access to learning for pupils who are unable to return to school.

Sport and Activities

Children are allowed to take part in PE and Games sessions in their 'bubbles', with increased cleaning and hygiene protocols as per the Autumn Term. We will continue to offer a comprehensive programme of sport and activity for all children, within the limitations of the guidance. The school is able to make use of local facilities but the wider restrictions upon travel remain in force until the Easter holidays. We will therefore be making use of The Saffrons and The Hollow, where pupils will not come into contact with others outside of our school community. There will be no fixtures against other schools until after the

Easter break and we will be limiting travel between the Prep and the Dicker sites until after the Easter break.

In the main, the activities programme will re-commence as planned and children will be able to take part in most of the activities they signed up for before the start of term.

Boarding

UK boarders, and international boarders who have been in the UK with guardians during the period of school closure should return to school. The boarding house will be open as usual for full and weekly boarders, who will be tested upon return on 7 March. Given the significant restrictions on travel to and from the UK at present, including the requirement to quarantine, boarders who are currently overseas should remain at home and continue to engage in the school's remote learning offer until after Easter. International boarders should prepare to return to school for the start of the summer term subject to latest guidance.

At the the time of writing, all travel corridors to the UK are suspended, and government regulations state anyone arriving into the UK **must**:

- Provide a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours prior their arrival
- Book a 'pay and travel test package' (<https://quarantinehotelbookings.ctmportal.co.uk/>) which is to be taken on day 2 and day 8 with a cost of £210
- Complete a Passenger Locator Form
- Quarantine for 10 days

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer an onsite quarantine camp for the return to school due to the difficulties associated with isolating pupils while school is in operation. Therefore, we request that any boarders returning to the Prep carry out their quarantine with their guardians before joining school for the summer term.

For the latest guidance please refer to the government's website [here](#).

Nursery

The nursery will reopen fully for all pupils on Monday 8 March. Mrs Kerrigan will be writing directly to Nursery parents to provide further details. The school is committed to keeping the nursery open; however, it may be necessary to close a bubble at short notice due to significant staff sickness or due to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Visitors and Parents on site

Unfortunately, we are still unable to welcome parents on site and so the protocols that we established in the Autumn Term remain in force:

- All parents are asked to wear face coverings when coming to school.

- Children will continue to be collected from Holywell, the side gate or the astroturf as per the Autumn Term and set out in our updated protocols.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this detailed information. I hope that you are as excited as the staff team that children will, in the main, be returning to school shortly.

Best wishes

Mark Hammond

Mark Hammond
Headmaster.