

**Date:** March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Return to School in March 2021**

I hope you and your family are keeping well.

I'd like to take a moment to thank school staff and pupils as well as you, the parents and carers for all your hard work. I know it's not been easy over the lockdown period. With schools never having closed during the pandemic many children have continued to attend in person with other pupils learning remotely.

From March 8<sup>th</sup> teachers across the county are looking forward to warmly welcoming all pupils back in person. I understand that some parents, carers and pupils might once again be anxious about returning to school. I wanted to write and offer reassurance of the measures that will be in place as the safety and wellbeing of the county's children has been at the forefront of our plans to reopen schools to all.

Your school will be in touch with details of how the return will work but there will continue to be a range of extra safety measures in schools such as:

- Extra cleaning
- Reduced contact between different year groups and staff
- Ensuring that anyone with coronavirus symptoms, or who has someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Cleaning hands thoroughly and more often than usual.

While the roadmap out of lockdown has been published by the government there are a number of steps we need to go through to get there. It's really important that we continue to stick to the rules, and that includes mask wearing and social distancing at the school gates and school pickup points until the national guidance changes.

Pupils should not attend school if they are displaying symptoms or are a contact of someone who has tested positive.

For more information about returning to school visit: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you have any specific concerns, please contact your school who will be happy to assist.

Now's the time for us all to get back to school safely.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Alex Dale**