

THE VICTORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALLAWAY AVENUE | PAULSGROVE, PORTSMOUTH PO6 4QP

PHONE: 02392 001160 | FAX: 02392 001161

admin1@thevictory.portsmouth.sch.uk | www.thevictoryprimary.co.uk



Executive Principal: Mr. J. Hartley
Head of School: Mrs. K Jones
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs. V Gidney

23/02/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid-19 Update: Return to School on 8th March.

As we begin the new half term, I am very pleased to be writing to you following the Prime Minister's announcement that all pupils will be allowed to return to school on Monday 8th March.

I know that this news will be greatly welcomed by parents, children and staff alike and I would like to thank you again for your support since January whilst pupils have been learning from home. We recognise that it has been challenging for many families, but I am very pleased with the level of learning that has been going on in every class despite the constraints of learning from home.

We should all be reassured and encouraged that the scientific and medical experts have concluded that it is now safe for children to return to school. It is so important to get children back into school before the Easter holidays so that they can return to some normality after so long away.

With numbers of infections falling and the vaccination programme making good progress and reaching those most vulnerable to Covid-19, we can be hopeful that this stage of the pandemic is coming to an end. We must, of course, however, remain vigilant and continue to follow the guidelines that have become so routine across the school this academic year. Thus, until we open more widely, pupils will continue to learn in their bubbles and should self-isolate should they be in close contact with someone who tests positive for the virus. Please can parents/carers continue to follow the rules:

- 2m social distancing
- only seeing one person to exercise with outside.
- no indoor mixing
- wear a mask in the playground.

It is important, as ever, that we all remain vigilant to the symptoms of Covid-19 even though the risk to young people is very small. There are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of getting ill with Covid-19:

- wash our hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- wash our hands as soon as we get home.
- cover our mouth and nose with a tissue or our sleeve (not our hands) when we cough or sneeze.
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash our hands afterwards.

If your child shows any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste and smell) please do not send them to school but go to the dedicated NHS 111 Covid site, <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>, for details of what you need to do.

Over the next two weeks, our remote learning programme will continue in full. Each day is vital in your child's education, so it is very important that all students continue to work hard from home and keep up with their lessons and learning.

We will now be looking again at our risk assessment and will make the necessary changes that will enable us to open more widely. This is likely to involve a staggered beginning and end to the school day which will require a degree of flexibility for parents/carers. The new arrangements will be shared with you shortly. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 8th March and thank you again for everything you have been doing to encourage and support their learning from home.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Hartley', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Hartley
Executive Headteacher