

Wednesday 24th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement today, I am delighted to confirm that West Vale is planning to reopen to all children on Monday 8th March. Over the next two weeks, we will continue to deliver onsite provision for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable children. Our remote learning provision will continue for all other pupils.

Throughout this period, we will make preparations for the wider reopening. We will work carefully through the government guidance to ensure that all controls are in place in order to ensure a safe environment for all.

As we get closer to the 8th March, I will write to you again to communicate the final details of your child's return. This will include arrangements for staggered start times and the onsite controls that will be in place in order to continue to promote social distancing, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day. Once the school reopens on the 8th March, we will continue to manage the school in year group bubbles. This will ensure that we are able to limit how many contacts each child has and in the event of a positive case will enable us to only have to instruct a smaller number of pupils to self-isolate. Many of our staff are engaging in the weekly LFD testing, which has been made available to all adults working in school. This is a proactive measure which allows us to identify positive cases within asymptomatic adults and respond accordingly.

Much of your child's provision will remain unchanged from that experienced at the end of 2020. Any changes in light of revised government guidance will be communicated to you shortly.

We will continue to offer school dinners with the same menu as prior to closing (this menu will change at Easter). All children from Reception - Y2 are entitled to a free school meal. Should you feel that you are now eligible for free school meals, the academy will be able to provide you with further information in relation to applying for this.

The wider reopening of schools is a positive step forward in the country's response to COVID 19. Once reopen, all children (with the exception of those instructed to shield or self-isolate) will be expected to attend. As a result, our live online provision will not be provided in the way that it has been during the closure period.

I am sure that you will appreciate that we now have to work through our planning and the revised guidance. I will write to you again as we approach the reopening date.

Kind Regards

Fiona Gardiner

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