



The William Amory Primary School & Nursery

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School reopens for all on 8th March 2021

First Thoughts – to help you plan

I must admit to not having read the 65 page guidance on reopening schools but it appears to be pretty much the same as what we had in Autumn so we are going with that right now. If anything changes I will let you know. But here are some reminders:

- Please continue to follow social distancing and keep to the Autumn timetables and entry/exit points.
- School is open to all apart from Clinically Extremely Vulnerable children – NHS and SCC inform us we have none so please bring evidence of your child's CEV letter if you have one.
- DOJO will cease as of 8th March (apart from CEV children as above)! Whilst I can only thank DOJO for their service, I think I speak on behalf of us all when I say that I hope we NEVER need rely on it again.
- We shall not commence any clubs until Summer Term.
- We shall gauge Standon Bowers for Year 6 in Summer Term.
- After School Club will resume its normal provision though we are still operating 07.30 to 17.30 for the remainder of Spring Term, planning to move to 17.45 in Summer Term.
- That first week will be very much about settling back in and meeting up with friends again.

I read (and copy) in the press and other sources the following information which I think might be useful to you:

Mandatory attendance

*Attendance back in school is **now mandatory** across all phases – and the usual rules on school attendance apply, 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.*
- *However, pupils who are classified as extremely vulnerable and therefore shielding are still exempt, but schools can request a copy of the shielding letter sent to these at-risk pupils to confirm they are not required in school.*

The guidance also notes that many pupils and/or families may be wary about returning due to risks to family members, but the DfE insists this not a legitimate reason not to attend.

"Discuss any concerns with parents and provide reassurance on the measures you are putting in place to reduce any risks. Remind parents that pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies," the guidance states.

Music, dance, drama and sport

Schools are told they "should continue teaching music, dance and drama as part of your school curriculum, especially as this builds pupils' confidence and supports their wellbeing", although there are numerous caveats around this, such as ideally holding events outdoors and socially distant and reducing the use of shared items.

Sporting activities can also take place but they should ideally be held "outdoors where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising natural ventilation flows (through opening windows and doors or using air-conditioning systems wherever possible), distancing between pupils, and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene".

Team sports matches against other schools cannot take place until grassroots sports are permitted to return.

I've also included DfE Evidence Summary for your information, though again, I've not read it yet. There's also a document here which I'm very tempted to ignore but you may want to read it.

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963491/COVID-19_Response_-_Spring_2021.pdf Copy and paste it in as the link won't work.

World Book Day – 4th March 2021 - DELAYED

I think it would be nice to have this when we're all back. I will let you know after our planning meeting this week.

Get out that Harry Potter costume and get ready to spend Thursday 4th on a world of books. Class teachers will be organising events for their class which will include a chance to show off that very latest invention of yours (if you can find anything in the shops).

If you don't have a ready made outfit – please don't go to any expense. This year of all years we don't need to worry if that character is a little obscure or looks like a five year old wrapped in toilet paper!!

Actually, don't use TP, you could set off another rush at the supermarket!

Global Recycling Day – 18th March 2021 PROBABLY DELAYED

We are going to have another day later on in March. Hopefully we will all be back by then so we're leaving the plan open just now.