



Royal Cross Primary School

Lancashire's school for deaf children

March Return to School

Dear Parents / Carers

The Government has given permission for the reopening of all schools from Monday March 8th and we are delighted to once again open for full time onsite education for all our pupils. We have been busy reviewing risk assessments and guidance to make sure this happens in as safe a way as possible and I would like to share a little information with families on how this will work at Royal Cross.

If you would like to read the latest DfE guidance document on operational guidance for special schools - click on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

When will Royal Cross reopen to ALL children?

We will be reopening school for all our children, including the Early Years from Monday 8th March 2021. We will be operating at our usual times and will be expecting taxis to pick up / drop off as usual to their individual class bubble entrances.

How will we manage the risk of coronavirus in March?

We appreciate that some families may have concerns when thinking about a return to school, however, we want to reassure all our families that we have taken great care to follow all guidance and that we will assess each day as it comes!

We have ensured as follows: -

- All school staff have had their first does of the vaccine – this has been stated to help limit the risk of transmission.
- All school staff and Speech & Language Therapists have access to rapid flow testing provided by school for home testing twice a week.
- All households with primary aged children can now access home rapid flow testing (if requested) to help break the chain of transmission. These tests are for the adults in the household. *There is no requirement or expectation that children will be tested as routine. However, if children should become symptomatic then testing will be required in line with Public Health England guidance.*
- We have an ample supply of all necessary PPE (including masks, visors, aprons and gloves).

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- We have plenty of hand sanitiser.
- Good hand washing routines will continue throughout the day and as children move into different rooms.
- All classrooms have cleaning kits and lidded pedal bins for disposal of tissues etc.
- All cleaning and infection control protocols will also be in place, ensuring regular and thorough cleaning of surfaces (including door handles, toilets, toys etc.). Some toys that are difficult to clean will be removed from use.
- Class Bubbles. We will continue with our individual class bubbles. There are 5 individual class bubbles. Your child will return to their usual class bubble from before lockdown.
- We have purchased several clear, Perspex, free standing table 'sneeze guards' to support 1:1 intervention working with staff and pupils.
- Taxi Transport. I believe rapid flow testing is to be offered to all front-line transports staff. All transport staff have PPE and there are risk assessments and guidance in place by the schools integrated transport teams. In addition each class bubble has their own drop off and pick up points and all children thoroughly hand sanitise as they arrive and leave school.

What will the curriculum look like?

- Our aim is to offer a wide variety of activities throughout the day alongside our 'normal' curriculum focus on Communication, Maths and Literacy.
- In addition, from the summer term, we are planning to re-start our curriculum enhancement activities which will include, Forest Schools outdoors; Yoga; Taekwondo; music; textile and computing.
- Staff will focus on a Wellbeing 'Recovery Curriculum' through PHSE to support all our children in returning to school and routines. This will give children opportunities to chat about any concerns or worries they may have in returning to school. This can then be followed up by 1:1 work by staff if necessary.
- BSL/Deaf Studies will continue to take place within school.
- Language interventions will continue in class and through 1:1 interventions led by our specialist support staff.
- Speech and Language Therapists have continued to work in school throughout lockdown and will now be able to continue therapies with all children in school.
- PE will be organised for each class separately. I know that already Mrs. Parveen and Mrs. Dewhurst are busy preparing fun PE games and activities and if at all possible we will attempt an end of term Sports Event – depending on Government guidance.

What are we asking families to do?

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- We ask that families are sensible in their own risk control when out and about to minimise the risk of transmitting the virus within school.
- All families will be asked to continue to respect the Home / School agreement issued in September in respect to Covid safety guidance.
- Unfortunately, for the time being children will be asked not to bring toys from home. Class teams will be able to send home reading books and homework with children. Any returned reading books will be put to one side for 72 hours before being replaced into circulation.

What happens if a child or member of staff becomes ill at school?

- If your child displays any of the symptoms of the coronavirus, parents / carers will be asked to collect them as soon as possible. They will be accompanied to a separate room with a staff member wearing PPE until collection. **Families will need to ensure that they are able to collect children as a return trip home in the taxi may not be possible.** Parents will be asked to follow the government guidelines in terms of isolation/testing.
- If a member of staff displays any of the symptoms of the coronavirus they will immediately leave school and will follow the government guidelines in terms of isolation/testing.
- If a test is returned as positive – children and staff within that class bubble will then follow the government guidelines in terms of isolation/testing and remain off school until safe to return.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and for all the support you've given school so far.

We want to ensure all families are happy that all the necessary safety measures have been considered and implemented while also prioritising the education and development of all children.

Please contact me if you would like to ask any questions or to chat about any concerns.

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Thank you for your continued support for school and our staff through this difficult time.

Bev Hennefer

Headteacher

Thursday 8th March 2021

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