

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are well and that your children are looking forward to returning to school.

We are now able to share our plans for our phased return reopening from Monday 8th March and we are looking forward to all children being back in school on Wednesday 10th March.

As a reminder, we are unable to have a separate critical worker and vulnerable child bubble whilst we are completing our phased return next week. Please make alternative arrangements until their year group returns.

We will be sharing a series of return to school videos on Friday this week that we would like you to watch with your children so that they know what to expect on their return to school. You can also view an update from Mrs Gammon, summarising the information below, here: <https://youtu.be/-iMi1JdxE1o>

Primary Phase

On Monday 8th March, it is mandatory for all Primary Phase children to return to school unless they are unwell or they have an absence that has been authorised by myself or if they are shielding and you have already confirmed this with Mr Vyse. Please note that you must follow the same procedures that were in place before the Christmas break during the Michaelmas term, using the Dukes Brow side of school and remembering to stand in the correct place whilst dropping off and collecting your child/ren at the usual times. Please ensure that social distancing is observed and bubbles are maintained. If possible, please can only one adult collect and drop off children to reduce the numbers of people on site at any one time.

Unless your child is shielding and you have already confirmed this with Mr Vyse (via NVyse@QEGSBlackburn.com), your child must attend from Monday 8th March 2021.

Senior Phase and Sixth Form

We will be staggering the return of our Senior Phase and Sixth Form because of the large number of children who have signed up for testing. If you have not yet given consent for your child to be tested, there is still time so please follow this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z5NSQQN>. By giving consent, you are helping us spot any asymptomatic cases and keep more members of our school community safe

The phased return will be as follows:

Year 7

- **Monday 8th** - Follow remote learning at home
- **Tuesday 9th** - To arrive at 8.30am. Those who have signed up for testing arrive via Main Entrance and go straight to Library Annex for testing using the Main Reception stairwell, followed by lessons as normal. Those who have not signed up for testing go straight to form rooms via the Main Entrance for form period, followed by lessons as normal. Will remain in form room for lessons as per last term.
- **Wednesday 10th onwards** – Normal school day

Year 8

- **Monday 8th** - Follow remote learning at home

- **Tuesday 9th** - To arrive at 11am. Those who have signed up for testing arrive via Main Entrance and go straight to Library Annex for testing using the Main Reception stairwell, followed by lessons as normal. Those who have not signed up for testing go straight to Period 3, where pupils will be registered, followed by lessons as normal.
- **Wednesday 10th onwards** – Normal school day

Year 9

- **Monday 8th** - Follow remote learning at home
- **Tuesday 9th** - Follow remote learning at home
- **Wednesday 10th** - To arrive at 11am. Those who have signed up for testing arrive via Main Entrance and go straight to Library Annex for testing using the Main Reception stairwell, followed by lessons as normal. Those who have not signed up for testing go straight to Period 3, where pupils will be registered, followed by lessons as normal.
- **Thursday 11th onwards** – Normal school day

Year 10

- **Monday 8th** - To arrive from 11am. Those who have signed up for testing arrive via Main Entrance and go straight to Library Annex for testing using the Main Reception stairwell, followed by lessons as normal. Those who have not signed up for testing go straight to Period 3, where pupils will be registered, followed by lessons as normal.
- **Tuesday 9th onwards** - Normal school day

Year 11

- **Monday 8th** - Follow remote learning at home
- **Tuesday 9th** - Follow remote learning at home
- **Wednesday 10th** - To arrive at 8.30am. Those who have signed up for testing arrive via Main Entrance and go straight to Library Annex for testing using the Main Reception stairwell, followed by lessons as normal. Those who have not signed up for testing go straight to form rooms for form period, followed by lessons as normal.
- **Thursday 11th onwards** – Normal school day

Years 12 and 13

- **Monday 8th** - To arrive at 8.30am. Those who have signed up for testing arrive via Main Entrance and go straight to Library Annex for testing using the Main Reception stairwell, followed by lessons as normal. Those who have not signed up for testing go straight to Singleton House for form period, followed by lessons as normal.
- **Tuesday 9th onwards** – Normal school day

Pupils and students in our Senior Phase and Sixth Form whom we have consent for will be tested on the first day back at school, again 3-5 days later, and for a third time 3-5 days after this. After the three tests have been completed, we will be sending testing kits home and we do not expect to be doing any further testing in school.

These tests help to identify asymptomatic cases but they do not replace the PCR tests which are required if a person has one or more of the symptoms of Covid.

COVID Symptoms

Do not send your child in if children if they have any symptom of COVID-19, please be aware that there are now 11 symptoms to look out for as well as the 3 main symptoms,

which include: diarrhoea, a persistent headache, fever and chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and nausea or vomiting.

If in doubt, please do not send your child into school and instead arrange for a test to be taken.

Please ensure that you follow the correct isolation rules should any member of your household test positive or have symptoms.

We will be continuing our remote learning programme for any children who miss school due to COVID. As school is reopening there will not be as many live lessons but we will do our best to provide as many as we can during the coming weeks.

As a reminder, please ensure that your child's Scopay account is topped up before your child returns to school.

Below I have shared some further important information.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to welcoming your child back into school.

Best wishes,

Mrs CY Gammon

Symptoms of Covid-19

The 3 main symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) are a new continuous cough or a high temperature (over 37.8°C) or Anosmia (the loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell. It can also affect sense of taste as the two are closely linked). If your child or any member of their household has any of these symptoms, then your child must not come to school.

If your child is ill due to having symptoms of Covid-19, please notify school immediately, marking your email as urgent, follow the PHE 'stay at home' guidance, which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and arrange for your child to have a Covid-19 test immediately to ensure full engagement with the test and trace system. Please inform school immediately of the results of the test. A member of school staff will contact you during the first day of absence to confirm dates of the isolation period. This also applies if your child is isolating due to being in direct contact with someone who has symptoms of Covid-19.

If your child becomes ill with symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day they will be immediately placed in isolation (in accordance with government guidance) and you will be contacted and asked to collect them. If you cannot be reached, the other contacts given will be called as it is essential for your child to go home as soon as possible.

If your child has a positive result from a Covid-19 test, then they must inform the school immediately and follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19. They must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. The rest of the household must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following ['stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection'](#).

If your child has a negative result from a Covid-19 test then they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period.

I ask that you keep a close eye on your children and do not send them into school if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. This is to ensure the safety of the whole QEGS community. If you do decide for your child to have a Covid-19 test then please do not send them into school until the result of the test is known, even if they seem well.

If your child is self-isolating then please do email myself at head@qegsblackburn.com as we are endeavouring to keep detailed records of who is isolating and for what reason. The details that I need are whether they are isolating due to a member of the household or due to a close contact outside of the household/school and, if so, what date the isolation ends or if they are isolating due to having symptoms themselves and, if so, have they had a test and when. If your child has had a test then please do email me the results so that we can update our records.

Shielding

If your child still requires to shield, then please contact Mr NH Vyse via email, nvyse@qegsblackburn.com, to explain the reasons why your child can not attend school. Mr Vyse will then contact parents/carers directly to discuss the situation including appropriate measures.

Travel

We ask that all parents and carers think carefully about how their child travels to school. Please read and follow the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#) when planning your travel. **If your child is traveling by public transport then they will be expected to wear a face covering.** The preferred method is to walk when possible following social distancing measures. Please ensure that you and your children follow social distancing measures whilst travelling to school and during drop off and pick up. If at all possible we do ask that only one adult per family drops off and picks up children.

Absence

Should your child be ill then you must report their absence either via email on reportchildabsence@qegsblackburn.com (this is the preferred method) or via phone 01254 686300 choosing option 1. In both cases you need to state the name of your child, their form and year group, the reason for the absence and when you expect them to be well enough to return to school.

This must be completed on every day your child is absent.

Face Masks

Primary Phase

During the school day, children in Year 6 and below will not be wearing face masks. If a child arrives at school with a disposable face mask then they will be asked to dispose of it in an appropriate manner. If a child arrives at school with a reusable face mask then they will be asked to remove it and to place it in a clear plastic bag, which must be provided by parents/carers, ready to take home at the end of the day.

Secondary Phase

Children in Year 7 and above must arrive at school with a face mask that they can use during the day when they are moving between lessons, in lessons until Easter and in communal areas where social distancing will be difficult. Please show your child how to put on and take off a face mask safely and please provide a clear bag for storage of your child's face mask when not in use. We ask that you emphasise to your child the importance of using face masks appropriately, of washing/sanitising hands after touching face masks and the storing of their face mask safely. We also suggest that a spare mask is placed in a clean

plastic bag in your child's pocket in case the mask they are wearing becomes damp and then needs to be replaced.

Ventilation

As part of our risk assessment for the school we have ensured that all rooms are ventilated with open doors and windows. Children must come to school with a jumper (sweatshirt type or hoodie) which they can wear under their blazer or a warm coat. A judgement will be made by the teaching member of staff in each room as to whether jumpers and coats should be worn and this may be different on each day, room dependant on the conditions in a particular room. This is a temporary change to the uniform rules and we hope to revert back to normal uniform as soon as possible.

Computer Access

We have fully linked all our schemes of work to remote learning so that any child who is isolating can continue to access the curriculum. We are aware that some situations may have changed due to individual circumstances in this lockdown. If you feel that your child would struggle to access remote learning due to the equipment available to them at home, then please email homeit@qegsblackburn.com stating your child's name and year group and the issues that your child would have so that we can see as a school if there is anything that we can do to provide support. Alternatively, please write a letter addressed to Mr Vyse, marked as Home IT, which your child can hand in at Main Reception.

Behaviour

It is essential that all pupils and students display exemplary behaviour at all times including being kind and patient with all members of the school community. Please can you reiterate to your child the importance of following social distancing measures, good respiratory hygiene and washing/sanitising hands frequently. These are the most effective ways of keeping us all safe and therefore we will treat any breaches of our safety measures extremely seriously, sanctions will be imposed and parents/carers contacted.