

Working together for the benefit of all children.

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parent

I write to thank you for your support during the recent lockdown and update with regard to the opening of school to all children from Monday 8th March 2021. In addition to this letter please visit the updated [Re-Opening Page](#) of our website to access our Full Re-Opening guide and visual guides. A summary of key points are included below and parents are encouraged to visit the website to ensure they are fully informed.

As a team we have planned carefully for the weeks ahead. The emotional wellbeing of our children is at the forefront of our thinking as is supporting their return to face to face learning. We are proud to have worked together with families for the benefit of all children during this latest lockdown and will continue to do so as children return.

Remaining Positive

We see our children as the generation who have built resilience, self-reliance showing great compassion for family and community, both local and global. In the last year they have shown creativity, imagination, and adaptability. These qualities will serve them well as they continue their education and throughout their lives. In many instances our children have continued to thrive in many ways and we are proud of them all. Their spirit and positivity are an example to us all and we owe it to them to reject the negative language of the media and many politicians.

We are purposefully avoiding the use of language such as 'fallen behind' 'catch up' and 'learning loss'. For good emotional health and to help our children bounce back as we have already seen them do and believe they will continue to it is essential children do not view themselves as being behind or having lost or failed as a result of the pandemic.

We will '*meet our children where they*' are in relation to how they are socially, emotionally and academically. We will assess and support them with what they need now and plan for what is needed next. We have a systematic plan in place for social emotional and academic priorities for the remaining three weeks of the spring term and are planning ahead for the summer term.

Class Newsletters

In addition to this letter and the information on the website each class will produce a welcome back newsletter which will be published on the [Re-Opening Page](#) of our website by Friday 5th March.

Attendance

From Monday 8th March 2021 children must attend if they are fit and well. As stated by the Department for Education (DfE)

'School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. The usual rules on school attendance apply.'

If parents are concerned about sending their child to school from the 8th March we ask that in the first instance they get in touch with their child's class teacher by emailing admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk who will be able to offer support. If children can not attend due to illness please let us know by emailing each day of the absence to admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk

Keeping Healthy- Safely Reopening

If there is a positive case in school the class bubble will close impacting on families.

It is vital children do not attend school if they have;

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- High temperature (37.8C)
- A new persistent cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss of taste or smell

If a child has any of these symptoms their parents must ensure they and their household self-isolate and book a test for their child. They must isolate until the result of the test has been returned. Please continue to keep school informed by emailing admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk

Communication

Staff will be visible at the start and end of the day welcoming the children, instigating handwashing and safe entry to school and handover to parents at the end of the day. These are busy times where it is only right the children's needs are prioritised.

Please do not be offended that it is not possible to have discussions with parents at these times. If you need to pass a message to the class teacher please email admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk

Parent consultation sessions are planned for the first part of the summer term where parents will have chance to speak with their child's teacher via video call.

Pick Up and Drop Off

The start and end of the day timings will remain as they were in the autumn term, as will the drop off and pick up points. Visual reminders of routines are available on the [Re-Opening Page](#) of our website. We continue to request that parents wear face coverings when on the school site. We also politely request that when a school adult is present in the morning parents leave their child with this adult and leave the site rather than congregate and wait to watch them enter school.

Breakfast Club

We are pleased to share the following message from Spofforth Childcare with families.

SPOFFORTH CHILDCARE – BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

An email has already been sent by Spofforth Childcare to all parents regarding bookings for After School and Breakfast Club. If you need a place for your child it is essential that you book a place (even if your child attended before lockdown). No child can be accepted without prior booking. Please contact: spofforthchildcare@gmail.com

Finally...

Thank you again for all your support during this lockdown period. We are very much looking forward to welcoming children back to school and re-establishing our usual school routines.

Yours sincerely

Mr Griffiths