



Europa School UK

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26th February 2021

Dear Europa parents,

I do hope you are all well.

Following on from the UK government's announcement that all children will return to school on/ from the 8th of March, I am writing to start the process. We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back after two months of distance learning, and we want to make sure that the students quickly settle down and enjoy returning to their school environment with their friends and classmates. The reopening does however present many challenges, and more so for us than for most schools, because we are also in the middle of a large capital works programme which has just reached the secondary school.

We expect all primary children to return to school on Monday 8 March. Secondary students will be offered a COVID-19 test as they return and we will therefore require a stagger of a few days from the 8 March – we expect all students to be in school by 11 March. Our primary and secondary leadership teams will be communicating with you early next week to provide more detailed information about the arrangements and there will be virtual assemblies for all secondary year groups to support the return to school with the added complexity of the testing. The school's data privacy notice and consent forms for the testing will be sent out next week. In the meantime the first day back for secondary year groups will be as follows:

Monday 8th March: S6 and S7

Tuesday 9th March: S1 and S5

Wednesday 10th March*: S2

Thursday 11th March: S3 and S4

*For S1-S5s the secondary school day will end at 12.35pm on Wednesday 10th March. There will not be any After School Activities or supervision on that afternoon except for the children of critical workers.

We are now finalising our COVID-19 policies and risk assessments and they will be available on our website next week. Our face-covering policy was updated and agreed by the Governing Body around the Christmas period, and is in line with the recent UK government's requirement for secondary students to extend the use of face-coverings to all indoor environments in the school (including classrooms) when social distancing cannot be maintained. For upper primary pupils (P4-P6) we encourage the use of face-coverings but understand that this may be difficult to sustain during the school day. Parents must wear face coverings at all times when dropping off or collecting their primary children on the school site.

The Capital works programme is focused on parts of the secondary quad and the secondary timetable has been reworked with new room allocations. The students will receive this information closer to their return date. The school is also undergoing asbestos removal work in the boiler house in the secondary

basement. The works are being carried out by specialist contractors according to a detailed and agreed risk assessment. The area of work has been fenced off and has restricted access. The school has worked with the main works contractors to ensure safe site practice particularly with respect to the fire evacuation plan.

The secondary main building is currently without heating. The DfE have agreed to install a temporary heating system ready for the 8 March reopening. I will inform parents of any delays to this work, but I am very hopeful that it will be installed on time. In all other areas of the school the heating installation work has been completed, and these areas are very comfortably warm - for the first time ever in my experience.

I am happy to report that Bus services to the school will be operating as usual from 8 March and I thank the Blocbus committee and the Culham bus Coordinator for their work to ensure students can travel to and from school. There were concerns before Christmas from several parents on different buses that the behaviour of the children had deteriorated – children were removing their masks on the bus and some were moving around the bus while in motion. This is not safe behaviour, and I would ask all parents to talk to their children to ensure they remain seated at all times until embarking from the bus at school with their seat belts on and wear their face coverings. I have asked the bus coordinators to report incidents and the school will try to deal with them as quickly as possible. We will also include this information in our virtual assemblies and in classes at the start of the reopening.

The school's kitchen and canteen were closed down over the lockdown period due to the Heating Programme however a normal service will be resumed from the 8 March including the break time service for secondary students. Please could I remind you to top up your children's' Ipay accounts for the school meals. <https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/IPI/Account/LogOn>

Please could I also remind all parents to continue to be cautious about attendance at school if your child/children are ill and contact NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> if they have any of the symptoms of Coronavirus – persistent cough, fever, lack of taste/smell. Any absence must be reported via the email absence@europaschool.uk or contact the reception. Procedures are in place for students to continue to receive distance learning support in the case that they are absent.

I do hope that the reopening of classes brings a much desired normality to the lives of our most precious commodity - our children. The Distance Learning period has been very productive for the majority of students. Now the school will do its utmost to make the transition back to school based learning as smooth as possible and to work on making sure every child can catch up on any missed learning in a secure and supported way.

Regards

Lynn Wood
Principal, Europa School UK