



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND**

**Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director for Children's
Services**

2nd March 2021

Via Email

To All Parents

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am delighted that your children will all be able to return to their schools from Monday 8 March. School communities coming back together and children reconnecting with their friendship groups is great news after what has been a testing time for families.

I would like to thank you for everything you have done to support remote learning during lockdown. Juggling family life, learning and work has been extremely challenging for parents and carers, particularly over the winter months. I would like to say a huge 'thank you' for the crucial role you have played in helping stop the spread of the virus.

Driving down COVID cases remains a key priority as we begin the process of easing lockdown. I would therefore like to ask for your continued help in keeping our communities safe through your support for the testing programme as it rolls out in your children's schools. The testing programme is for everyone's protection and you will receive further information about it from your individual School Leaders this week, including details about on-site testing and then home testing arrangements.

Primary children must return to school on 8 March, unless you have received a letter stating that your child is Critically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV). Secondary and Further Education students will commence a staggered return from 8 March to enable testing to be carried out.

Schools have been actively planning to welcome all children back and have a range of enriching curricular activities lined up to enhance good-quality classroom learning. To ensure your children can access the full range of opportunities after such a long time at home, schools will be actively following up on non-attendance.

Oxfordshire's schools are following national guidance on COVID safety and have a suite of measures in place. Face masks will be required in all areas of secondary schools from 8 March until further notice; they must also be worn on school transport and public transport. Please also note that social distancing must be observed at school gates at drop-off and collection times. I realise that parents will be keen to catch up with one another after lockdown, but please ensure you observe social distancing so that we can keep everyone safe.

I know that you will want to support all of these measures to keep our communities safe and please do encourage your children to adhere to them.

For further information and guidance to help you plan for your children's return to school, please visit www.gov.uk/backtoschool.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KSG', is written on a light yellow rectangular background.

Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director for Children's Services