



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

People's Services Department

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Our ref: 0303WiderOpening
Your ref:

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Dear Parents,

We hope you are well and like us, are looking forward to the wider opening of schools from Monday 8th March. Schools and colleges will have already contacted you to make you aware of the arrangements for the safe return of all students. To confirm, these actions are being taken in line with government guidance. We would like to thank you for all the support you have given during the period of lockdown. You have done a great job!

On Monday 8th March, all primary school age children will return to school and attendance will be compulsory. If your child is ill or presenting with symptoms associated with COVID then you must inform your child's school following the usual attendance procedure. Schools may have staggered the start and finish time to safely accommodate drop off and pick up sessions.

Secondary schools and colleges will be testing all children and young people. This will help identify those who have the virus but do not have symptoms and will help to keep safe the wider population of the school/college. Children and young people of secondary school age will be asked to complete three tests during the first two weeks of their return to school. They will then be provided with home testing kits to enable them to test safely. Information regarding these arrangements will have been provided by your child's school/college. Some schools/colleges have already begun this process but for others this will start the week beginning Monday March 8th and may mean that your child will start school during the course of that week depending on their year group.

A further change for secondary age pupils and staff is the requirement to wear face coverings indoors. Again, this will have been communicated to you by your child's school, but we wanted to remind you of the need to ensure your child has a clean and suitable face covering.



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Throughout this pandemic, our schools and colleges have worked extremely hard and have continually reviewed their risk assessments to provide safe learning environments. This will continue over the coming weeks and will include the need for all students and staff to wash their hands regularly, use tissues in line with the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' and for good ventilation across school and college buildings. We would ask that you talk to your children about the need for them to follow guidance provided by schools in order to ensure they remain safe and make the most of being able to return to school and to access face to face learning amongst their peers.

If we are made aware of any further changes to guidance in relation to the wider return of children and young people to schools/colleges we will of course inform you.

We know that all school and college staff are very much looking forward to welcoming all children and young people back next week and we wish all of our children and young people every success over the final few months of this academic year.

Warmest regards

Jim Leivers,
Director of Children and Young People's Services

Jo Davies
Assistant Director, Education and Learning