

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

Once again thank you for working so closely with your child's school to ensure that their learning continued despite the partial closure of schools due to the pandemic. It's important to take a



moment to acknowledge the hard work and determination that has been put in by school staff, parents and of course pupils throughout some of the most challenging times. This has only been possible as a result of us all working together and keeping children at the heart of all we do.

We are delighted to welcome all pupils back to school from today and want to share with you some of the ways that Pathfinder Schools are acting to reduce risk and some of the ways that you can help.

### **Asymptomatic testing**

All school staff are continuing to be offered twice weekly testing; all secondary pupils will be offered twice weekly coronavirus testing, first in school and then continuing at home. In addition all members of households, childcare bubbles and support bubbles of primary and secondary school staff and pupils are eligible for rapid coronavirus tests in the community, even if nobody in the household has symptoms. Please take up this offer it will protect both you and our community.



### **Testing for Households, childcare or support bubbles**

The guidance explains how you can do this [guidance for household testing](#)

Quite simply anyone 18 or over can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point and start testing. [Find your nearest home test kit collection point](#).

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

***If you have any queries about the tests or kits please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm***

If you are worried about home testing have a look at this video to put your mind at rest. It is a step by step guide to self-testing from the Department of Health and Social Care.

[Using a COVID test](#)

### **Travelling to school safely**

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- Avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- If you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- When you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:
  - wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station

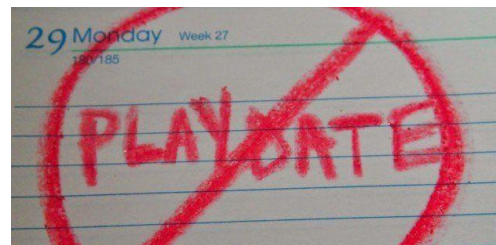


- social distance where possible
- wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- be considerate to fellow passengers and staff

### **Maintaining Safety in the community**

Please continue to follow the national lockdown rules. More specifically:

- Limit visits to school sites – we request that only one parent bring your child and arrive at school on time and leave the site promptly. Please follow the advice given by schools on dropping and collecting your children.
- Please return home promptly – play-dates and outdoor play or meeting in groups remains prohibited under the current government restrictions
- Ensure you follow preventative measures at home including handwashing as soon as you enter your home
- Ensure your child/children follow the rules if accessing school transport, including wearing a face covering if they are secondary age and above.



***The safety of our children, parents and school staff is, and always will be, our number one priority***

### **Attendance**

The government have stated that school attendance is mandatory for all pupils from 8 March 2021. This means that other than in exceptional cases, or where a pupil's absence is otherwise authorised, it will be our expectation that pupils attend as normal. It is important that you discuss any concerns on attendance with your school as soon as possible so that we can support you.



If you have any queries or questions, then please send them via email to [office@pathfinderschools.org.uk](mailto:office@pathfinderschools.org.uk).

On behalf of all Pathfinder Schools we would like to thank you and your children for your continued support.

Ann Davey  
CEO, Pathfinder Schools