

## Orchard School Bristol

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[www.osb.school](http://www.osb.school)



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**Headteacher:** Mrs Julia Hinchliffe MA (Hons), MA, NPQH

26 February 2021

Dear parents and carers

It is such good news that I am able to confirm that we are opening the school to all children in the week beginning 8 March 2021. I expect you will be as pleased as I am to be able to send our children back into school.

### Dates

Our plan is to stagger the start dates, so that children can come back in gently, and start to get used to being in school again. This also enables us to put Covid rapid testing in place at a sensible pace, where consent has been given.

The week is planned as follows:

Monday we have three year groups in school.

Tuesday we have the other two year groups in.

Wednesday we have all year groups in, with a slightly earlier end to the day.

Thursday onwards, all students will be in at normal times.

| Year group     | Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March        | Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March       | Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Year 7, 8 & 11 | In school for normal start time     | At home – remote learning final day | In school; end of day at 2.20pm  |
| Year 9 & 10    | At home – remote learning final day | In school for normal start time     | In school; end of day at 2.20pm  |

### Support

We know that some children will find the return to school a worrying time. Anxieties over meeting other young people, concerns about their learning, even the general noise and business of a school can feel overwhelming. Over the course of next week, we will be building students' confidence to feel comfortable to come back to school. We will have special tutor time messages, assemblies, emails and videos to remind them about everything from lunch times and seating plans to uniform, PE kit and village safety procedures.

If you are particularly worried about your child's transition back into school, and your Pastoral Manager is not already aware of this, please do email them:

Year 7 – [nantigha@orchard.tila.school](mailto:nantigha@orchard.tila.school)

Year 8 – [dpiper@orchard.tila.school](mailto:dpiper@orchard.tila.school)

Year 9 – [ebhakerd@orchard.tila.school](mailto:ebhakerd@orchard.tila.school)

Year 10 – [tpointing@orchard.tila.school](mailto:tpointing@orchard.tila.school)

Year 11 – please contact [mgrafton@orchard.tila.school](mailto:mgrafton@orchard.tila.school)



Next week I will be sending out more detail to parents and carers with reminders about school procedures and the safety measures we have in place. A new measure will be the wearing of face coverings in classrooms as well as all communal areas of the school for a limited time, as per government expectations. We know a few of our students have an agreed exemption with their Pastoral Manager, so please be assured these exemptions still stand. I will also send out a reminder of the support that is available in school, as well as our very clear behaviour expectations.

### **Attendance**

The view from the government's SAGE team is that missing out on classroom-based education has severe impacts for children and young people, with clear evidence that further time out of schools is detrimental for cognitive and academic development, learning, health and wellbeing.

The government has therefore said attendance is mandatory – which means that all students need to attend. The usual rules on school attendance apply, so if your child is unwell, please make sure you phone the absence line on 0117 377 2021, or email [info@orchard.tila.school](mailto:info@orchard.tila.school).

### **Lateral Flow Tests**

Thank you to parents who have already signed up their son/daughter for lateral flow testing. If you have not yet done so, you can complete the [Consent Form](#) .

Please read the [Privacy Notice](#).

Please note that testing is voluntary, and no child will be refused education for not engaging in lateral flow testing.

I look forward to seeing your children back in school shortly, and I will write again next week with further details.

With best wishes



Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher