



The Triple Crown Centre

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Headteacher: Miss E Clarke

Date: Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We understand that this has been a difficult and challenging time for all parents and pupils. We also know that parents will now want to ensure their child is able to return to school in a safe learning environment. We would like to reassure you that we have taken every measure to ensure your child's health and well-being and are closely following Department for Education guidance and expectations. It is therefore essential for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing, and wider development. We believe that missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school.

Compulsory Attendance and Reporting of Absence

School attendance will be compulsory for all pupils again from 8th March 2021. This means that the usual rules on school attendance will apply. Please note:

- It is parents' duty to ensure their child attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil.
- Parents should contact school on the first day of any unavoidable absence and subsequent days in line with the school policy.
- It is school's responsibility to record attendance in the register and follow up absence. If no reason has been given for any absence schools will follow their escalation procedure and safeguarding procedures which may include contacting other emergency contacts and referrals to CSAWS.
- There is the option to issue sanctions, including Fixed Penalty Notices in line with the Local Authority Codes of Conduct where all other actions have failed to secure regular attendance.
- It is parents' responsibility to ensure that in the best interests of the safety and well-being of all children your child arrives at school on time (usual start time will apply).

Shielding

The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school whilst shielding and this advice applies nationally. Access to remote learning will be provided for these children. **We would request that you provide school with a copy of your child's shielding letter sent to CEV children, to confirm that they are advised not to attend school or other educational settings whilst shielding guidance is in place.**

Self-Isolation

Children should not attend schools if they are required to self-isolate in line with PHE and DFE guidance and legislation ie:

- they or a household member are unwell with a new continuous cough or high temperature or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell or;
- they have had a positive test result themselves;
- or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19);

In these circumstances parents must follow government advice on test and trace and self isolating. Pupils will be provided with access to remote learning in these circumstances and **parents must be proactive in accessing testing and keep school informed of the results of any testing.**

If you are unsure if your child should attend school please contact the school who will offer advice and guidance or signpost you to the relevant service.

Please note where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

Pupils and families who are anxious about returning to school

We are aware that many pupils, parents, and households may be reluctant or anxious about returning to school especially if they shielded previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary or live with a family member who is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. We are happy to discuss any concerns and give you more details regarding the measures we have put in place to reduce the risk in school.

We will be working closely with other professionals as appropriate to support all our pupils return to school, this includes CSAWS who may contact you if there are attendance related issues.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter please contact the school office.

For further information regarding attendance the school's attendance policy is available on the school website.

Yours faithfully



Miss E Clarke

Head Teacher

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