



**The Priory School**

Headteacher: A Pope BA (Hons) PGCE MA  
Longden Road, Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire, SY3 9EE

01743 284000

info@tpstrust.co.uk

www.tpstrust.co.uk

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Dear parents/carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and rested after the half term break.

As promised, yesterday, the Prime Minister laid out the government's plan to allow lockdown to be lifted in England. You will have no doubt picked up information with regard to the impact of this on the full re-opening of schools. The main areas are:

- a) **Testing** – students should be tested in school 3 times. These test need to be completed 3-5 days apart. After this you will be provided with home testing kits to test your child(ren) twice per week. This is still voluntary. Serial testing is still paused so if there is a positive case then close contacts will be identified to self-isolate for 10 days.
- b) **8<sup>th</sup> March** – this is the return date. **However, this can be staggered across the week to allow for the testing (in our case 842 students twice in the first week).** So please do not expect your child(ren) to be back in school on 8<sup>th</sup> March. If they choose not to be tested, they will still need to learn from home until their cohort has been through the process.
- c) **Remote learning** – in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March we will be transitioning back to face to face teaching. You will therefore see a necessary shift in provision during that week from live lessons to work provided for students to complete independently. This will certainly be the format for those self-isolating or shielding when full face to face teaching resumes in school.
- d) **Facemasks** – where two metres cannot be guaranteed, they should be worn. This now means in classrooms. Exemptions are for medical and specific learning needs only. Please ensure they come to school with a facemask and a spare.

As with everything, the devil is in the detail and we are formulating plans as we speak. Our first hurdle will be to tackle the logistical issues around mass testing. With this in mind, we need a firmer idea of who would like to give consent for their child to be receive the 3 lateral flow tests, on site in the first few weeks back.

**Even if you have already completed the form could you please re-read the instructions (there have been some changes) and information on the following link and return your consent to us by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February at the latest?**

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=X4pRTR73X0uDdSbvXs\\_1sVWWYnYYaRxNmtlquN-avAJUQIBVRkM0RUowOFkzWUdBSVVZM1laMTIPTi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=X4pRTR73X0uDdSbvXs_1sVWWYnYYaRxNmtlquN-avAJUQIBVRkM0RUowOFkzWUdBSVVZM1laMTIPTi4u)

Many thanks for your continued support. All of the detail aside we are very much looking forward to having our students back. I will be in touch with our detailed plan in the coming days.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "A. Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a period at the end.

Mrs A Pope  
**Headteacher**