



Our Ref: LD/DLE/KB/8th March Return

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carer

Return to school from 8th March

Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

On 22nd February, the government announced that, from 8th March onwards, all pupils should attend school.

“School attendance will be **mandatory** for all pupils from 8 March.”

Everything in this letter is in line with the government guidance, which you can find in full here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Testing in school and staggered return

When pupils first arrive back at school, they will have a Lateral Flow Test, if you have consented.

You can watch this video, produced by members of our School Council, which explains how these work: <https://vimeo.com/511022818>

Every pupil will have 3 lateral flow tests across the first two weeks they return to school, spaced at 3-5 day intervals.

To be able to test everyone, we are staggering the return to school as follows.

Return to school		Until they return to school, pupils will continue working remotely, with live Teams lessons as they are having currently or work packs if they currently receive these.
Monday 8 th March	Year 11, 12 and 13	Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 continue working remotely
Tuesday 9 th March	Year 10 return	Years 7, 8 and 9 continue working remotely
Wednesday 10 th March	Year 9 return	Years 7 and 8 continue working remotely
Thursday 11 th March	Year 8 return	Year 7 pupils continue working remotely
Friday 12 th March	Year 7 return	No pupils working remotely unless isolating (see below).

Pupils should arrive at the normal time (8.25-8.49am) and enter via their normal entrances.

Reminder:

Years 7, 11, 12 and 13: Top gate

Year 10: Bus bay/Sports Hall entrance

Years 8 and 9: Bottom gate onto Beacon Road



Barr Beacon School
Old Hall Lane
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0RF
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Pupils who are already coming in to school (including those of critical workers) should come into school as normal from Monday 8th and will be attending their normal timetable of face-to-face lessons.

End of school day

The end of the school day is staggered. The only change is that Year 10 and Year 11 have switched, so the times are as follows:

3.00pm Years 7, 12 and 13
3.05pm Year 11
3.10pm Year 9
3.15pm Year 8
3.20pm Year 10

Consent for Lateral Flow Testing

If you have already given us consent or informed us you do not want your child tested, you do not need to do anything.

If you have not already give us consent to test your child and you want them to be tested, please complete [this form](#).

If you do not want your child to be tested and you have not already told us this, complete [this form](#).

If you have already filled in one of these forms and you would like to change your mind, please complete the other form and let us know you have changed your mind by emailing: postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Anyone 16 or over can give their own consent or you may do this on their behalf.

Home testing

Following the in-school tests in the first two weeks, pupils will be expected to complete two tests a week at home. Pupils will be issued with their test kits to take home following their third in-school test.

Anyone twelve years or over is permitted to self-swab themselves. Eleven year olds will need to be swabbed by a supporting adult. Full instructions are inside the test kits. Anyone accepting receipt and opening test kits is legally obliged to report results from those tests to the NHS.

If your child's test returns a positive result, you will need to notify us at postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk, forwarding us a copy of the email confirmation or a screen capture of the text message.



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Face coverings

Unless you have notified us that your child is exempt, we are trialling pupils wearing face coverings in classrooms where social distancing is not possible. Pupils will also wear coverings during breaks and lunchtimes and they are to only be removed when eating.

The government say this additional measure should be in place until at least Easter. At this point it will be reviewed. Please make sure your child brings at least one plain face covering to school. If they arrive at school without one we will provide them with one and place a charge of 50p on their Wisepay account. Add a minimum of £2 to your child's WisePay account to cover the cost of replacement face coverings should they lose or damage their reusable face covering during the day

Pupils will not wear face coverings while participating in physical activity.

Remote education

In any cases where pupils are self-isolating or have been told to isolate, they will be able to access streams of the lessons going on in school through Microsoft Teams. Please bear in mind that teachers will be dividing their attention between pupils in front of them, in the classroom, and anyone participating from home. This means they that may not always be able to check the Chat, for instance, as they are addressing the rest of the class in front of them.

If your child requires a work pack, please make sure you have made us aware of this.

School buses

These will be operating as they were previously, with 2 x 881s, 2 x 705s and 1 x 788, with 'bus bubbles' operating.

The Extracurricular programme will resume. You can find it here:

<https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/extra-curricular/>

Attendance

If your child is unable to attend school due to being clinically extremely vulnerable then you must provide a doctor's letter clearly outlining that your child cannot attend school for medical reasons. A letter that just states your child has a medical issue is not sufficient evidence unless it says that as a result of this condition your child is unable to attend school.

All pupils, unless there is an authorised reason, should aim to have attendance of 97% or above. If a pupil has an attendance level of below 90% then they are considered persistently absent. If a pupil has to self-isolate, this will be coded as 'X' on their attendance record and this period of absence will not count towards the overall attendance percentage. The government confirmed on 22nd February that schools have the ability to issue sanctions again for these pupils, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct and attendance panel hearings.

If your child feels anxious about returning to school, or has any concerns, and you feel they would benefit from an induction session made specific to them before 8th March, then please contact their Head of House.



Reminders – these are things which remain unchanged

Pupils will not be permitted on school site until 8.30am and must arrive no later than 8.49am. They will go straight to form on arrival.

Pupils must be in their normal uniform. Have them try on their uniform, including school shoes to make sure it still fits. Order any replacement items in good time for them to be received before their first day back. If new piercings, nails or unsuitable hair colours have featured during lockdown, please ensure these are compliant with school policy before pupils return.

If there is an issue with your child's uniform please contact your child's Head of House and they will be able to arrange a loan of required items:

<http://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/uniform/>

Equipment: To minimise the risk of viral transmission, it is essential that pupils have the usual equipment, including a glue stick and a green pen. The full list is here:

<http://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/uniform>

Bubbles will be maintained at lunchtime by having different years in different venues. As before, the years in the first and last sittings will alternate every two weeks. This shows the timings and venues for the weeks commencing 8th and 15th March:

	12.30-1.00	1.00-1.30	1.30-2.00
Year 7		Bistro	
Year 8			Hall
Year 9	Hall		
Year 10			Bistro
Year 11	Bistro		
Year 12		Hall	
Year 13		Hall	

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Draycott
Headteacher

