



# Rossall

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

**Monday, 22nd February 2021**

## **Reopening of Schools**

This afternoon, Boris Johnson addressed parliament to explain the government's roadmap out of lockdown. The government is minded to take a cautious, data driven approach; one predicated upon clear scientific evidence. Thankfully, the situation has been improving for some time and it is worth noting that:

- Almost 18,000,000 people have received a first dose of the vaccine (that is one in three of the UK's adult population).
- The 'R' rate has dropped to between 0.6 - 0.9 which means that the number of new cases of COVID is in sharp decline.
- There has been a dramatic reduction in hospital admissions and this has served to reduce pressure upon the NHS.
- Early evidence suggests that the vaccines are successful in terms of serving to reduce transmission and protect against serious illness.

The government's decision to gradually unlock the country is dependent upon the *continued* success of the vaccine programme.

The current disruption to children's education is something that has impacted upon all young people and there is a collective understanding that schools must reopen at the earliest possible opportunity. Our online provision has been outstanding but nothing can replace the full immersive experience of school life with all of its opportunities for learning, socialising and taking part in fun activities outside the classroom.

**Consequently, we are delighted that the government has announced that Schools will return from Monday, 8th March.**

**Furthermore, we welcome the fact that school sports and activities will be able to resume from this date.**



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We believe that this is the right decision for our children. A year into this crisis, we have confidence in the measures that we have put in place to minimise the risk of viral transmission within School.

**This includes:**

1. Social distancing
2. Wearing of face masks
3. Temperature checks
4. Regular lateral flow tests for all staff
5. Quarantine, PCR tests and lateral flow tests for those travelling back to School from overseas.

We have created an environment which is safe and we are very proud of our school community's record in this regard. However, these measures are kept under constant review.

We hope that today marks the beginning of the end of this crisis and we now look forward to welcoming all children back to School in the very near future. There is no doubt that this is a happy day and we are full of optimism for the future. We will continue to adopt a very cautious approach but with the knowledge that a 'near-normal' summer term will now be possible.

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact our Deputy Head (External Relations) Stephen Prest on [s.prest@rossall.org.uk](mailto:s.prest@rossall.org.uk). Tomorrow, we will provide more details for those travelling back to School from overseas and will in due course outline specifics related to the logistics of school return.

Kindest regards,



Jeremy Quartermain  
Headmaster

