



# Olney Middle School

Yardley Road, Olney, Bucks. MK46 5DZ

Telephone : 01234 711323

Fax: 01234 714389

Email: office@olneymiddle.milton-keynes.sch.uk

www.olneymiddle.milton-keynes.sch.uk

a *CARING* school

Headteacher: Mr Glenn Young

4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and have had a good week so far. Yesterday, felt like the next genuine step for returning to school, and I hope you found the phone call home beneficial, it was important to us to offer that personal and individual approach as we prepare for the exciting return of the children on Monday. We cannot wait! Mr Morrow has done an incredible job over the past half term, and every classroom has been painted, with all of the school looking fresh, and vibrant for our Spring return.

### Using the technology that we have learned...

During the following weeks back, it will be important for us to try different ways of keeping the skills that everyone has developed through the use of Google classroom so please don't be surprised if occasionally over the coming weeks the pupils mention that they have had lessons, assemblies, interventions or meetings in different ways than we would have previously. After the positive development of using technology is it vital that we don't lose these skills, and fully look at ways to bring the strengths and positives of technology into the classroom. I look forward to reporting more about this over the coming months.

### Testing, Track and Trace

As we return to school, we have been notified by the DfE of the offer for lateral flow testing for families. Currently, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test. Tests are available in four different ways:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online Full details are available on this DfE help-page:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>



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Also, please remember that we ask all to adhere to social distancing rules outside of school and not to send their child to school if any of the household are unwell with Covid-19 symptoms. We hope that all will actively engage with the NHS Test and Trace, and that anyone told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their public health protection team has a legal obligation to self-isolate, but you may leave home to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm.

Finally, please note that pupils and other adults must not come into the school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test

They must not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

### **Parking**

As we return back to school, please can I take this opportunity to remind everyone to be respectful and thoughtful if you are driving to school - we know that for some parents this is the only way, but please can we remind you to think about where you are parking, and how you leave the car. Please also remember that you are politely requested to NOT drive into the school car park especially before and at the end of day, as we have many children and staff using the main entrance.

We would always request that you park far enough away where it is quiet and enjoy the short walk to school. Thank you.

### **Parents' Evening**

Just a date for the diary, to remind you that we will be hosting parents' evening on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March - these will again be virtual and further details for booking will come in the following week.

### **Clubs**

Hotshots returns to school from the first week back, with SSG clubs returning from the 15<sup>th</sup> March. We will update further as we move on next week, but should you require immediate questions, please contact the office if you require further details.



### **Medication reminder**

If your child needs medication in school that they take on a regular basis (inhaler etc.) please can you make sure that they have it in school on Monday and that the relevant forms have been filled in.

### **And finally,**

As ever thank you for all your support and generosity of spirit over the past couple of months, I really look forward to seeing you on Monday, and I genuinely hope it is the start of the country returning to some form of normality. We hope you have enjoyed World Book Day and the big reveal of the Masked Readers. If there is anything we can to support before Monday, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Best wishes

Glenn Young

