

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Director of Education and Director of Public Health at Middlesbrough Council, we felt it was important to write to you as schools reopen to all pupils.

First of all, a huge thanks to you all for your efforts in supporting our schools. It has been a challenging time and we do not underestimate the impact school closures have had on children and families.

Headteachers have spoken highly of your commitment and flexibility in helping to deliver home learning, at a time when so many of you are also doing your jobs at home. We are pleased therefore that schools are now preparing to welcome back students from Monday March 8.

We appreciate some parents and carers may have reservations and we thought it was important to explain some of the local context.

Middlesbrough's Covid infection rate has reduced dramatically since January and we thank all families for their efforts in following the national lockdown. Our schools have robust risk assessments in place. These include the recommended measures of isolating and reporting positive cases, handwashing, social distancing and bubbles that children and staff will now be familiar with.

We believe schools are absolutely the best place for children to be and would encourage you to play your part in supporting staff to create safe environments.

In relation to secondary schools, the national guidance for the use of face coverings has been extended as a temporary measure. It is now advised that they should be worn by adults and students in communal areas and classrooms when social distancing cannot be maintained. This does not apply when face coverings would impact on exercise (e.g. during PE lessons). We would encourage families to support this additional measure.

We would also encourage you to ensure your child takes part in the testing programme outlined by your school. By identifying positive cases early and stopping the infection from spreading, we can reduce disruption to education and help to keep children and teachers as safe as possible.

If you are the parent or carer of a child at primary school, we urge you to continue to act in a Covid-safe manner at drop-off and pick-up times.

Face coverings should be worn and families should maintain a safe distance from each other.

It is crucial that all pupils, primary and secondary, continue to follow the national Covid restrictions outside of school. At this stage people from different households should not be mixing socially.

These measures will help us stop the spread of infection and help keep bubbles in school.

We know our brilliant teachers will be ready to support your child back into the classroom and inspire them in their learning.

Thank you once again for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Rob Brown
Director of Education & Partnerships



Mark Adams
Joint Director of Public Health