



The Academy at  
**St James**  
Aspire, Achieve, Believe

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

After the Prime Ministers announcement, we are really excited to be able to welcome back all our children to the Academy St James on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are in the process of planning the return and further details will be with you early next week.

We are very excited and cannot wait to see the children face to face and begin the process of getting to know one another once again. Home learning has really helped maintain that connection and thank you for all your support with this. For now, there a few small steps you can start to take to help the transition back to school easier for your children. It would be really useful for you to reintroduce the school term time routines if they have not been as structured as before. We want the children to walk into school ready to learn like they did after the last lockdown and we have learned that routines and structure is key to this. Some examples of this are:

- Waking children up at the time they would normally be getting up for school
- Getting dressed in clothes and not onesies
- Having breakfast by the time you would normally leave the house for school
- Ensuring children are in bed on time and get enough sleep.
- Reading with your child
- Talking about school **daily** before the 8<sup>th</sup> so they get used to the fact they will be coming back

All of the above are small but important things you can do to support your child. We know as adults that the first day back on school can be a shock to the system if you have not built up to it properly.

It is really important that the children still complete their online and home learning before we come back to school. If you can try to get them to complete this learning away from distractions as I know a number of pupils have been joining our live sessions sat on the sofa, in pyjamas on their bed and have a drink and a biscuit with them. While this is great for their comfort and enjoyment, it will make the process of going back to school with uniform, chairs, desks and limited snacks through the day take a while longer. I am very grateful they have been online but in the next week try and make sure they start to be more independent and prepare them for school starting again. Being on time for school is really important so they do not miss any lessons at the start of the day so being up and ready each day next week will really help.



Building stamina and good work patterns is also now very important as we start to come back to school. Your children have missed some school and even though they have been online coming back into school will still be challenging in different ways therefore we would ask that **all children engage** in their home learning next week. This is vital as the work the children do when they come back will follow on from this work. If they have not completed the work, they will not know what they are supposed to be doing. Setting a timetable for your child around any live lessons and online learning will **not only help your child, it will also help you.**

We understand that the above is not always possible however we also feel in a week that every child can access some learning at different levels and this relies on parents supporting them. We have been humbled and amazed at the work many of you have put in for your children over the last year. Our parents star of the week videos show a small snap shot of this. Thank you once again for the wonderful work you have been doing.

As I said at the beginning of the letter, details of our reopening plan will be out by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. I can tell you that we will be:

1. Having **staggered starts** again so look out for your time.
2. **Family groups with** different aged children will still be able drop their children at the earliest time as we aim to ensure less congestion,
3. **PE** will resume as normal from the 8<sup>th</sup> and children are to still come in their full PE kits on their PE day which has not changed.
4. Asking you follow **social distancing rules** whilst on site and wear a face covering whilst in school premises.
5. **Breakfast club** will begin as normal from the 8<sup>th</sup> March for all those who attended prior to lockdown.

We are really looking forward to seeing you and your children on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Until then, take care and look after yourself and your family.

Kind regards

The Academy St James Team