

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well and had a peaceful summer break. It has been lovely to see our pupils return all looking relaxed, happy, and pleased to be back!

We are at the start of a new school year, and we are hoping that this year will be much closer to 'normal' than the last one. We are continuing to work in line with the Government and DfE guidance regarding safety in schools during a pandemic. This can be found at:

[SEND and specialist settings: additional COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/send-and-specialist-settings-additional-covid-19-operational-guidance)

Guidance states classes no longer need to be in bubbles, however, we will continue to minimise mixing wherever possible and classes will carry on eating in their own rooms. Specialist rooms will now be open for all to use within their class groups. We also hope to reopen the hydrotherapy pool over the next couple of weeks. Initially our priority will be to allow as many children to access this as possible, whilst allowing for the required cleaning between uses. This therefore may need to be gradually reopened on a rota basis. We understand how valuable this resource is for all our pupils and we would like to get back to running a full timetable, but health and safety has to be our priority.

Staff no longer need to wear face coverings, but we are recommending they continue to do so if social distancing cannot be adhered to and always when supporting with intimate care. Rooms will be well ventilated so please ensure as the weather changes your child wears an extra layer if needed. Regular handwashing and extra cleaning around the school will continue.

Twice weekly testing is recommended for all secondary aged pupils; however, it is not compulsory. If your child cannot tolerate this, we suggest a close family member undertakes the test instead as this may pick up if the virus is in the home. We will be providing test kits to all pupils in this category. Test kits are also readily available for everyone in many pharmacies, community centres and test sites or can be ordered online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. If your child tests positive, we kindly ask that you notify the school. Should we receive any notifications of positive results we will still inform all close contacts, however, guidance now states that no child under 18 or adult who is double jabbed will then need to self-isolate. We are aware that many of our pupils have underlying medical conditions and we will leave this decision to parental choice.

On a non-Covid note please remember our new school uniform can be purchased online at [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

Can I also remind you that each class has their own email address and this is the way to communicate with your child's class team. If you have any general enquiries, please contact the school office, or Julie Cook, our family support worker.

**Lime Academy Ravensbourne**

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For regular updates please check our school website [www.limeacademyravensbourne.org](http://www.limeacademyravensbourne.org) and do not forget to read our weekly school newsletter which has key dates and information about day-to-day life in school.

On behalf of the whole Ravensbourne team, I would like to thank you all for your continued cooperation and support. We are all looking forward to a fun filled, exciting and successful year.

Yours faithfully

Victoria Fackler

Headteacher