

**Date** 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021  
**Your Ref**  
**Contact** Jane Moore  
**Phone** 0116 2323232  
**email** [childrensservices@leics.gov.uk](mailto:childrensservices@leics.gov.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

School staff have been extremely busy over the past week preparing for the full opening of schools from March 8<sup>th</sup> onwards. To ensure that children and young people are safe on their return to school, plans are being put into place across the county to make sure that measures such as enhanced cleaning, distancing where possible and seating plans are ready to support pupils' return to school by keeping schools Covid secure.

Those of you with older children in secondary schools will know that your child will be offered a lateral flow test before their return. They will have a total of three tests in school before moving to home-testing. This will ensure that any cases in the community are not brought into school, as long as young people participate in the testing cycle.

School staff in both primary and secondary schools will continue to take tests twice weekly to ensure that they are infection free before coming into contact with children. You may have seen in the news that there are plans to roll out home testing for families of school-aged children. Tests will be offered to all families with primary, secondary or college pupils. These tests will be free and will further help to identify cases of people with no symptoms and therefore slow the spread of Covid-19. In addition, tests will be offered to adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders. These can be accessed:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site (Holliers Walk Car Park)
- by ordering a home test kit online

See the following link for further details:

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

Cont'd...

To support the safe return to school, it is vitally important that we all play our part in helping to reduce cases and stop the spread of the virus. Please follow the guidelines set out by schools to help protect your child and those of others too. Remember that very simple measures, such as wearing your mask when dropping off and collecting children, maintaining distance where it is possible to do so and ensuring that any children who are waiting at the school gate with you are staying within the family bubble are essential to keep us moving in the right direction. If older siblings collect younger children from primary school, please remind them that they should go alone to do this, rather than being accompanied by friends. Prompting your child to practise good hand hygiene is also important in helping to stop the spread of the virus.

If you have any concerns or worries please do contact your child's school.

Thank you for everything that you have done and continue to do to support schools. It has been a difficult time for many, managing home-learning alongside your own responsibilities and commitments. Hopefully, the full opening of schools will ease some of those pressures as well as giving children and young people the chance to learn in the classroom, to socialise with people their own age and to feel that brighter times are ahead of all of us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Jane" and the last name "Moore" clearly legible.

Jane Moore  
Director of Children and Family Services