

My ref: Parent Letter – Partial Opening  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021  
Contact: Please contact your school  
for more information



To Parents/Carers of pupils in  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough  
Schools

**People & Communities**  
Education Directorate

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you know, the government has announced that it is planning for schools to possibly re-open from Monday 8th March. Schools being 'closed' continues to cause significant disruption at home – for both you and children. I know that Heads are looking forward to re-opening, not only so your children can be back in the best possible teaching and learning environment, but to also take the pressure away from you, who are doing your utmost at home-schooling.

Since this announcement, we have seen a significant number of parents requesting that their child attends school, even though they may be in a position to keep them at home safely. Please think very carefully before requesting a place in school unless it is absolutely necessary and remember the government message continues to be 'Stay at Home.' Returning to normal schooling is in sight, and if we all continue to play our part we can ensure a safe return for all children to school hopefully sometime in March. Schools are using their local risk assessment to ensure the classroom is safe for all.

Public Health data shows the number of cases of COVID-19 for children is still high in our area:

	Age			
	0-4	5-9	11-14	15-19
Cambridgeshire	139.5	116.2	141.1	223.9
Peterborough	200.4	161	179.7	442.1

Data as at 22nd January 2021 (rate per 100,000 of the population)

By limiting attendance at school, we are reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people from other households – this is crucial in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Children with no symptoms could still have COVID-19.

Our schools remain committed to supporting our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers who are crucial to the response to the current crisis and are unable to keep their child at home safely. They have worked hard to ensure children who are at home have access to learning resources and support so please do talk to them about how they are able to support you whilst home educating.

Schools have designed their remote education offer to meet the needs of their children and there will be many different approaches between schools within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Please do bear that in mind.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to all of you for your support and understanding during this period. By working together, we can all play our part to protect ourselves, our families and our school staff.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Lewis'.

Jonathan Lewis  
Service Director Education  
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council