

NEWS RELEASE



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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BACK TO SCHOOL

This week signals the start of the new school year. Students across the borough will be returning to school, moving schools or starting school for the very first time.

For the first time since March 2020, students will be back in classrooms with no restrictions, such as bubbles or requirements to self-isolate if someone in their class has tested positive. It is still advised to wear a face covering whilst travelling to and from school if using public or home to school transport. Testing arrangements will be organised and communicated by individual schools.

Cllr Graham Howe, executive member for children's services, said: "We are really pleased to be welcoming students back fully into school. The past 18 months has been tough on everyone, so having this sense of normality for our children and young people is vital.

"The council's dedicated Children's Covid-19 taskforce will continue to have daily contact with head teachers, maintaining the open and positive relationships that have been reinforced during the pandemic.

"Good luck with your studies this year!"

If you are thinking about how your child will travel to school, [MyJourney has a page dedicated to travel to and from school](#). It includes information on the benefits of walking, cycling and scooting, maps for each school showing different routes and information about public transport.

- MORE -

Private: Information that contains a small amount of sensitive data which is essential to communicate with an individual but doesn't require to be sent via secure methods.

Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1BN
Tel: (0118) 974 6000 Email: communications@wokingham.gov.uk

Children can be considered for home to school transport for a variety of reasons, such as distance between offered school and home and if they receive free school meals. A transport policy review indicated that there were several opportunities to update Wokingham Borough's Home School Transport policy, in order to improve outcomes for children and young people in Wokingham, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). You can [visit our website](#) to find out more, make an application or see if your child meets the eligibility criteria.

Applications to schools for the 2022/23 school year will soon be opening, you can find out more including information on catchment areas and how to apply [on our website](#).

- Secondary schools – applications from 12 September 2021 to 31 October 2021. Offers will be viewable online from 1 March 2022.
- Primary schools and transfer to Junior schools – applications from 13 November 2021 to 15 January 2022. Offers will be viewable online from 16 April 2022.

- ENDS -

Further information:

1. More from Cllr Graham Howe at graham.howe@wokingham.gov.uk