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Mrs J Seabright Headteacher Alexandra Park Junior School Richard Lynch
Director Education, Skills & Early Years
Oldham Council
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1NL

E Mail: richard.lynch@oldham.gov.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

As your children return to school or college, we want to thank your efforts to support their learning during lockdown and ask for your continued support in tackling Coronavirus over the coming period.

It was great to see good attendance on Monday but need your help to carry on with this start. It is vital that our children and young people return to school and college, for their wellbeing and to get back on track with learning.

We know that good attendance at school and college supports better outcomes in terms of mental health, achievement and progression. These in turn lead to better employment opportunities in the future. Let's help our children and young people get back into the classroom and back on track.

Schools and colleges have Covid-safe measures in place to ensure that children, young people and staff are safe. If you have concerns about returning, schools and colleges want to work with you to bring your child back in – lets work together to get back to some normality.

Young people, their families and school staff have embraced the need to follow the national guidance around Coronavirus testing. It is important that we all do what we can to stop the virus from getting into our schools.

Regards,

Richard Lynch

**Director, Education Skills & Early Years**