



23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope you had an enjoyable half term break. Following the announcements yesterday, we have been putting together a plan for school reopening. School will reopen *from* 8<sup>th</sup> March for all pupils (except those shielding).

DfE guidance says that all secondary children should be offered Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) three times, 3-5 days apart, *from* 8<sup>th</sup> March. This will potentially involve over four thousand tests if every child has three. This presents a substantial logistical and staffing issue, especially as the children will be in school after their first test.

Mrs Alexander is launching a volunteer recruitment drive this afternoon and I ask for your assistance in helping the return to school to be as smooth as possible. Please do read her letter in its entirety. We will need to substantially increase our current LFT provision. Effectively, we will test each year group before they return to school, starting with the elder year groups.

Consent forms for LFT have been sent to parents again today. Testing is optional, so it could be that some children will not be tested before they return to school. These children would return on the day their year group does. A matrix is being devised which will include the dates of first testing, return, second and third testing.

Staff will now be provided with home testing kits which should arrive at school by 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Children will be issued with home testing kits once they have undertaken their three on-site tests.

Key worker school remains open during the week of 8<sup>th</sup> March whilst the year groups are phased back into school.

The national shielding list has been extended, so, if you have received a new notification from NHS regarding your child, please do let the school know.

Our risk assessments are being updated and will be posted on our website after consultation with staff.

National guidance is that face masks should now be worn, where social distancing is not possible, within **all** areas of the school (except in strenuous physical activity such as PE lessons) by staff **and** children; this includes classrooms. This is temporary guidance until Easter; to be reviewed then by DfE. I am seeking clarity on whether this guidance includes outdoor areas – ‘all’ implies that it does.

The OfQual consultation outcome is due on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. We will all then hopefully have a clearer picture on the process for the Teacher Assessed Grades which will replace examinations this year for Years 11 and 13.

It will be wonderful to have the children and staff back on-site and I will write again in the coming days with further updates.

Yours sincerely

D J Gray  
Headteacher



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