



26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you once again to the dozens of you who have volunteered to help in our Lateral Flow Testing Centre. Work is well underway to expand the centre to accommodate a huge increase in the number of testing bays. Mrs Preston will be contacting our volunteers with training and induction information from today, prioritising those who can offer chunks of time or whole days.

Students will start on-site lessons the day after taking their first test, or on the day that their year group starts lessons if they are choosing not to take a test. A testing schedule and the return to school days for each year group will be sent out early next week.

As communicated earlier this week, I have agreed with governors that staff can have some time away from online lessons to set up for the return to on-site teaching. You may also remember that we had some network issues a few weeks ago. This was due to a rather important part of our IT infrastructure failing. The IT team did a wonderful temporary work-around which has kept things going in the short term. The replacement piece of equipment was ordered some time ago, and we had hoped that this could be fitted during the half term break, but the kit did not arrive in time. It would therefore make sense for offline learning days to coincide with the fitting of this essential piece of IT hardware.

The IT team are going to fit, set up and test the new kit on Thursday 4th March, and possibly into Friday 5th March. This will mean we will have no, or very little, access to school IT resources, including Teams, drives, and emails, on Thursday 4th, and possibly Friday 5th March.

Staff will, therefore, plan for the children to work without school based IT systems on these days. Our IT will be down but children can still access other generic online resources if needed for learning. It will also give children a chance to consolidate their work during lockdown and prepare for a return to school, getting folders and work in order, and catching up on any outstanding assignments.

The OfQual consultation outcome was released yesterday. We are preparing our response, and information to parents will be sent out next week.

Thank you for all your messages of support and I wish you all a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

D J Gray
Headteacher

