

24 February 2021

Dear parent/carers,

Preliminary plans for the wider reopening of school

Thank you for your patience in waiting to hear about what our plans are for getting all students back in school. I am sure that you heard the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday that stated secondary schools could start to reopen from the 8 March, and that three lateral flow tests need to be conducted by school upon students' return.

You will be receiving **later** today correspondence from us that asks for your consent for your child to be tested. It is really important that we have a response from you as soon as possible to say whether you want your child to be tested or not, we need as much time as possible to plan for how many tests we will need to conduct.

In terms of students being back in school full-time, our plans are:

Monday 8 March:

There will be no lessons in school or online. We will send out a 'return to school checklist' prior to this date for students to complete at home. Each form will be given a time slot to come into school and be tested – once the test is done, students will return home. We will only conduct tests on those children whose parent/carers has given written consent for us to do so.

The school will be shut to key worker/vulnerable students for this one day to allow us to get the whole school tested.

Tuesday 9 March:

All students will return to school at the normal time and follow their normal timetable (week 1). We want to get students back into lessons, learning and back into a routine as quickly as possible. There will be an assembly for them during form time and more information about how we will support them will come out to you next week.

Students will come into school and leave school through their year group gate, the same as before lockdown. Their break and lunchtime areas and times will stay the same as they were before Christmas too. I am sure that you have also heard that the government have stated that face masks are mandatory in lessons as well as around the school building, so please make sure your child comes each day with one unless you have already informed us that they are exempt.

Friday 12 March and Tuesday 16 March:

All students who have consented, will be allocated a time during these days for their 2nd and 3rd lateral flow test. The school day will run as normal and they will just need to leave their lesson for 5 minutes in order to have their test.



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There will be more detailed plans out later this week/early next week around risk assessments and measures we will have in place, but as we were so stringent in our measures anyway, not much will change for us from how it was previously. Like I say, more detail will come out on everything, I just wanted to give you all warning as soon as possible of what our plans are so that you can prepare.

I hope that this offers you and your child some reassurance that we can head towards something a little bit closer to normality in the not so distant future.

Take care,

Emma Mills