



15 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Arrangements for the start of term - September 2021

There are two parts to this letter, the first is information on what the start of term will look like for your child. Following this information on the second page is the Government's roadmap that all schools must follow for September 2021.

I would like to inform you on how pupil's will return to school in September. Due to changes in transition for Year 4 to year 5, we were not able to offer them two full transition days in the summer term. We are aware we need to provide the best support for these pupils when they start their schooling in September. We will therefore invite year 5 only into school on Thursday 2 September. This will give them a greater chance to get to know the school and the staff that will be closest to them. We must also factor in the government's new advice around testing in schools for year 7 and 8 pupils before they return to the classroom. The government produced new guidance this week which can be found below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999689/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_FINAL.pdf

We must be mindful that more guidance may well be released in the coming weeks which the school will respond to as necessary, however, at this point pupils returning to school will work in the following way.

Wednesday 1 September - Training Day for all staff, no pupils in school.

Thursday 2 September - Year 5 pupils only will return to school to further aid their transition. Year 7 pupils will come into school on a rota to be C19 tested. They will come into school for the test only. We will publish the rota at the start of September.

Friday 3 September -Year 5 and 6 will be in school. Year 7 pupils who have tested negative will be in school. These year groups will all be in lessons. Year 8 pupils will be tested on this day and return to school for lessons on Monday if they return a negative test.

In the second week of term we will test year 7 and 8 pupils for a second time.

If we need to adjust these timings we will let parents know in advance.

Please note the entry and exit points to school. All pupils enter the school at 8.45am and leave the site at 3.15pm.

Year 6 and 8 will enter and leave the school at the upper front double gates near the sports hall.

Year 5 will enter and leave at the gate furthest along Lovaine Avenue.

Year 7 will enter and leave at the Lovaine Avenue entrance next to the caretakers house.

School in September - Government guidance

Below are the key issues for our return.

- Bubbles or separation of children is no longer necessary and social distancing is no longer a requirement.
- Schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing
- Face coverings are not required (the exception being where there is an outbreak based on advice by the local Director of Public Health)
- Schools must develop an outbreak management plan
- The following control measures are required in all schools:
 - Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
 - Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
 - Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
 - Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Testing
 - All staff and secondary pupils should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open over the summer. This is year 7 and 8 for Middle Schools.
 - Testing will be widely available over the summer and kits can be collected from community pharmacies
 - **Secondary school pupils** should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September.
 - **Secondary schools** should also retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice
 - All school staff should continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September
- Risk assessments remain important and will be in place.

The school will continue to react positively and proactively to any guidance published over the summer.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Newport
Headteacher

