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National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



25th August 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am writing to you to share our final plans for our return to school in September.

As you are aware we are now in the next stage of the Government plan for COVID. Please read the notes below which will clearly show the expectations going forward when you child returns to school.

Bubbles

Bubbles ended on Monday 19th July. This means the pupils can more freely mix. In school, we are going to maintain wider bubbles where possible, but will have the flexibility to have larger groups of pupils together for activities such as assemblies. We are told that should there be high numbers locally from September, we may see the temporary reintroduction of bubbles. We would obviously write to you again if this is the case.

COVID Cases

From September, if your child tests positive for COVID please continue to contact the school and let them know. You must also now contact NHS track and trace who will take over cases and contact any individuals that are deemed close contacts and ask them to take a PCR test. NHS track and trace will then give advice to individuals and not the school. If a large scale outbreak is noted, the school will receive additional information from NHS track and trace as to the next steps it needs to take. A pupil should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or have other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine after return from a foreign country).

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer required in and around school or communal areas. However should staff and pupils in the secondary department wish to wear a face covering in communal areas, then this will be down to the individual. The school could reintroduce this measure as a requirement if cases significantly rise locally or are asked to do so by NHS track and trace.

Additional measures in place

The school will ensure that we continue with additional hand washing throughout the day. We will also continue with enhanced hygiene procedures such as cleaning of surfaces between classes and regular cleaning of high touch points during the school day. Classrooms will continue to be ventilated. We must also continue to self-isolate anyone we believe has fallen ill with COVID during the day whilst they await collection.

Testing of Secondary Age Pupils

The government guidance is that staff and pupils should re-start testing (LFD) on their return to school. Schools have been asked to offer your child, if you wish, **two** tests on-site before continuing regular testing at home. I would like to re-iterate that this is voluntary. If you would like your child to be tested on their return to school, please complete the permission form that was sent out in the summer term to the school by 3rd September at the latest.

When testing at home, **you must report results, even if your result is negative or void**. You should also keep a note of and share your results with your school/college. This can be done via the school website. The link can be accessed via the front page.

Staff have been asked to continue self-testing twice a week, beginning a week before the start of term. This advice will be reviewed at the end of September.

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

After school clubs

After school clubs will start in September. Please keep an eye out for after school clubs information.

Uniform

Should you require any school uniform, can I please request that it is ordered and paid for via Parent Mail. Once the school has received your order, then we will contact you to arrange a convenient time to collect uniform from the office before the start of term

First week back

Unfortunately due to the situation in the summer with regards to COVID, we were not able to complete our transition mornings with our new pupils. There is also the expectation that on return to school in September secondary pupils, if parents have given permission, need to complete two LFD tests in school during the first week. From previously experience this has quite a significant impact in school and requires additional space and staffing to complete. As I shared with you in the summer, to enable transition and testing to take place, pupils will be phased back to school during the first full week, which is the week beginning 6th September. All pupils will return full-time from 13th September. The timetable for the first week is below to when your child should **be in** school.

	Monday 6th	Tuesday 7th	Wednesday 8th	Thursday 9th	Friday 10th
Infants	Apple 1 & 2	Chestnut 1&2 Apple 1 & 2	Chestnut 1&2 Apple 1 & 2	Chestnut 1&2 Apple 1 & 2	Chestnut 1&2 Apple 1 & 2
Juniors	Oak and Rowan	Oak and Rowan Hawthorn Sycamore 1&2 Beech	Oak and Rowan Hawthorn Sycamore 1&2 Beech Birch Yew	Oak and Rowan Hawthorn Sycamore 1&2 Beech Birch Yew	Oak and Rowan Hawthorn Sycamore 1&2 Beech Birch Yew
Secondary	Year 7 Year 8	Year 9 Year 10 Year 11	Year 7 Year 8	Year 7 Year 8	Year 9 Year 10 Year 11

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents that pupils should not be in school before 8.30am. Pupils who wish to access breakfast club can do so from this time, otherwise pupils should not be in school before 8.40am. Parents who drop their child off in the morning, must do so outside reception and not enter the school beyond the reception area. Breakfast club will start Monday 13th September.

Thank you once again for your support and I am very much looking forward to welcoming your child to school in September. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

With very best wishes

Helen Ball

Headteacher

