



KHD/jm

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Returning to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Key Worker and Vulnerable students**

If you wish to apply for your child(ren) to return to school as they are either vulnerable (children with a social worker or EHCP), or are classed as key worker children, you must do this by **10.00am** on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, using the form we sent home on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (if you have already returned this form/informed us, you do not have to complete another).

These children can return to school on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, and should be at the back of the school for 8.30am and lined up in their year group areas, to maintain the separate bubbles. Please ensure they are wearing their normal full school uniform. Students will then be allocated to an area where they will work, with members of staff, on the remote learning that the rest of their year group will have been set. The cafe will be available and we will be operating staggered break and lunchtimes.

To support us and the school community we would like to strongly recommend that, before your child returns to school, they take a PCR Covid-19 test by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020, either at a test centre or using a home testing kit, which you can book using the web address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

This would then allow the results to be returned to you before we return to school. If your child's test is positive they should remain away from school and follow the NHS guidelines for self-isolation. If your child's result is negative, then they should return to school as normal, at 8.30am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### **School Testing**

Schools have been asked to put in place a Covid-19 testing programme for staff and students on our return. We are not yet clear of the full details of how this will work in schools, but we will share these with you as soon as we get full and clear guidance from the DFE. We hope to have these plans in place by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Attached, therefore, is a letter from the DFE, for parents/guardians which includes a registration form, and a separate consent form for the school to test their child(ren) using the Lateral Flow test. Included with the letter and consent form is a leaflet/poster explaining what the test involves. You may also wish to look at the video offered by Number 10 showing how these tests work:

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1328387524490911745>

We would be really grateful if you could read the letter and fill in both the **registration and consent form** to allow us to test your child at times when in school. This is not compulsory and you do have a right to decline, but we would strongly recommend it in order to try and reduce positive cases in school and help control the spread of the virus.

If your child was to test positive using the Lateral Flow test in school, they would be isolated until you can pick them up and they would then have to go for a PCR test. If this is negative, they can return to school. If it is positive, they would need to self-isolate using the NHS recommendations, along with all other members of the household.

When there is a positive case in school, we are no longer obliged to send all students and staff home who have been in close proximity of a positive case for longer than 15 minutes, as a matter of routine. Students and staff instead have the right to remain in school and undertake 7 school days of Lateral Flow testing. If they become positive, they would then self-isolate. If they do not, they remain in school. However, both students and staff also have the right to self-isolate, rather than take the daily testing. Staff and students can also opt out of daily testing at any time. When there is a positive case within school this will be communicated with you as the parent/guardian, so you can make this decision on behalf of your child.

At present, I cannot share any further details, as I am still awaiting on both further guidance on the testing programme and more information about when the tests will come into school. This is why we are highly recommending for the PCR test to be done before students and staff return to school in the new year.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding in this very difficult situation.

Yours faithfully



Miss K Hayward  
Executive Principal