

23 February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware from the Government announcement yesterday, **schools will be returning from 8th March 2021**. We very much look forward to having our young people back with us. We have missed them.

Rapid testing using the Lateral Flow Devices will support the return to face to face education. The guidance asks that pupils are tested three times on site before moving to home testing. After the first negative test, pupils can be in the school setting for face to face learning.

In order to safely manage this process, **we will return pupils in a phased way over the week beginning 8th March**. We will need pupils to attend school at the scheduled time to be tested and then to leave the school site once tested. **Pupils will need to report to the main hall at the allotted time for their group** and then leave the site to meet parents and return home. Parents will need to remain off site during this time. Whilst I appreciate this is potentially very difficult for parents, we would ask that you support us with this process to allow the quickest and safest return to normality. If you are unable to get your child in for their testing schedule, please do email me in advance on the school email – office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk.

The schedule is below:

	Mon 8 th March	Tue 9 th March	Wed 10 th March	Thu 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
	No face to face lessons today – all pupils to engage in remote learning	Year 11 return to school for face to face lessons today – all other year groups remote learning	Year 10 and 11 in face to face lessons on site today – KS3 remote learning	Years 11, 10, 8 and 7 in face to face lessons today – Year 9 remote learning	All pupils in face to face learning
8.30 - 9.30			8GR	9CR	
9.30 - 10.30	11GR	10GR	8CE	9CE	
10.45 - 11.45	11CE	10CE	8PH	9GR	
11.45 - 12.45	11PH	10PH	8PX	9PH	
13.20 - 14.20	11GN	10CR	7GR/7CE		
14.20 - 15.20			7CE/7PH		

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Pupils of key workers and those who fit the Government criteria for vulnerable pupils will continue to be in school as they are currently. They will follow the cycle of testing and face to face learning in line with the rest of their year group.

Many parents have already **completed the consent form for testing**. If you have not done so please can this be done as a matter of urgency. We need you to complete this even if you are refusing consent. The link to do so is here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6XXbL0KpIE-KkTGqDuXuSvk_ssBL6rtMvoUQHCCow4JUN1U5T1BBRUprUzIxNDIOQjcwRFIXRDFBNCQIQCN0PWcu

On return to school the Government has stated that **all pupils and staff must wear face masks within classrooms and in other areas of the school**. This is a requirement until Easter. Please can I ask that **parents support us with this and provide a clean reusable face mask for each day of the week**. The medical disposable masks are not appropriate. If your child has a medical reason for being unable to wear a mask, I will need a written confirmation of this please, emailed to the school prior to return. **Please email me on the school email with the heading 'Exemption from wearing a mask'**. We will issue medical passes to all pupils exempt from wearing masks.

As before Christmas, pupils will be in their Year Group Bubbles before school, at break and at lunch. In order to avoid any cross contamination, we ask pupils to come equipped with pens, pencils, glue and scissors ready for lessons. There will be no dining facilities available, so pupils need to bring packed lunch please. We will, of course, provide food for those eligible for Free School Meals. We would also ask that pupils return in full school uniform please.

I know that pupils and parents will be anxious about the testing and return. As is always the case, the wellbeing and safety of our pupils and staff will be the number one priority. We will ensure that your child is emotionally supported as they return to us.

I would like to thank parents and pupils in advance for their support so far and for their continued support over these difficult times. The sense of community has been overwhelming and I feel incredibly proud to be working with such dedicated pupils, parents and colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Toni Wilden
Headteacher