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Headteacher: Mrs Julia Hinchliffe MA (Hons), MA, NPQH

23 February 2021

Dear parents and carers

I hope you are well and that your child/children had a good half term break.

Plans to return to school

You will be aware that yesterday afternoon the government provided a 'roadmap' for moving out of lockdown, and today further information has been published for schools about returning to school safely and the testing procedures.

It is very important that our plans for return are robust and risk-assessed carefully. As a result, we will not be rushing out a plan today, but will be working through all aspects over the next few days. We are looking at half of the students to be in school on Monday, the other half to be in school on Tuesday, and then for all students to return full time from Wednesday onwards. This will allow us sufficient time to carry out the lateral flow tests. I intend to share fuller details with you towards the end of this week. Thank you for your patience.

Lateral Flow Tests

The Department for Education has informed us that asymptomatic testing (for those who have no Covid symptoms) will take place for children with consent three times on their return to school, once every three or four days. We are aiming to do this twice in the first week and once in the second week. Students will be asked to self-swab and after 30 minutes they should be informed of the results. If positive, your child will be required to get a PCR test at a local testing site, and if confirmed they will need to self-isolate. Those with a negative test can return to lessons.

The government has indicated that "*Testing on-site (via an ATS - Asymptomatic Testing Site) initially is a condition of being able to transition students... to test at home.*" The aim is from the third week back that students who have been trained to carry out a lateral flow test will be provided with tests to do from home.

Thank you to parents who have already signed up their son/daughter for lateral flow testing. If you have not yet done so, you can complete the [Consent Form](#). Please read the [Privacy Notice](#). Please note that testing is voluntary, and no child will be refused education for not engaging in lateral flow testing.

I look forward to seeing your children back in school shortly.

With best wishes

Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher

