

01 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have been able to enjoy the summer break and that your child is looking forward to returning to school; a particularly warm welcome to our new Year 7 students who will be joining us for the first time on Friday.

Further to my letter dated 21 July

<https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/correspondence/recent/Letter to All Parents re Whole School Start of Term Arrangements dated 210721.pdf>

I am writing to confirm arrangements for the start of term and to provide you with a summary of the measures that will be in place at Springfield to keep our community as safe as possible as we continue to work to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Autumn Term – Start of Term Arrangements

To support transition for Year 7 students and to facilitate on-site COVID-19 asymptomatic testing, we are having a staggered start to the term, with Years 7 and 11 starting one day sooner than Years 8, 9 and 10.

Year	First day of term (students)	Registration/Tutor Time	Entrance
7	Friday, 03 September	08:40	Central Road
8	Monday, 06 September	08:40	Grove Road
9	Monday, 06 September	08:40	Central Road
10	Monday, 06 September	08:40	Grove Road
11	Friday, 03 September	08:40	Grove or Central Road

The school day will start at 08:40 for all year groups; students should attend in full and correct school uniform. Students need to be at their tutor base at 08:40 and so should aim to be on site by 08:35. You will notice that we are keeping with the approach of designated entrances for the year groups to limit congestion, but are not having staggered starts or ends to the school day. An overview of the school day can be viewed here:

<https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/school-life/the-school-day>

There is no specific work requirement for Years 8, 9 or 10 on 03 September, but students may like to engage with online activities from the recommend platforms listed on the Remote Learning page of our website:

<https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/misc/Remote Learning - 8 January 2021.pdf>

COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing

As explained in my previous letter, the DfE is encouraging students to continue twice-weekly testing at home following two initial on-site tests at school. The continued



need for testing will be reviewed by the Government at the end of September. Thank you to those students and their families who are supporting this programme; self-evidently, if we can prevent cases of COVID-19 from coming into school, we can limit transmission to others.

	Holiday			*Autumn Term						
	Bank Holiday	Summer Holiday	Summer Holiday	INSET Day	Y7&Y11 on site	All years on site	All years on site	All years on site	All years on site	All years on site
Date:-	Mon 30 Aug	Tues 31 Aug	Wed 01 Sept	Thurs 02 Sept	Fri 03 Sept	Mon 06 Sept	Tues 07 Sept	Wed 08 Sept	Thurs 09 Sept	Fri 10 Sept
(am)		Year 7 Test 1	Year 8 Test 1		Year 11 Test 2	Year 8 Test 2	Year 10 Test 2		Home testing resumes for all on Monday and Thursday mornings	
(pm)		Year 11 Test 1	Year 9 Test 1	Year 10 Test 1	Year 7 Test 2	Year 9 Test 2				

Kindly note that home testing kits are being distributed to students when they attend their on-site test.

COVID-19 Risk Assessment

We will continue to take a circumspect approach to ensuring that we have proportionate measures in place for the safety and well-being of our students, staff and visitors. These measures take into account the latest guidance from Government and Public Health England, and are kept under continuous review by Governors and Trustees; they include:

- a requirement that people who need to self-isolate do not attend school
- the wearing of face masks in recommended circumstances
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- procedures to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school so far as is reasonably practicable and without causing disruption to ordinary activities
- good ventilation
- asymptomatic testing using lateral flow devices
- engagement with the health protection teams in the case of a local breakout
- supporting NHS Test and Trace should they contact the school
- contingency / 'outbreak management' planning

Please take a moment to read through the information below, noting the recent changes to contact tracing and self-isolation requirements.

As you would expect, staff will be highlighting key messages and practices with students as they return to school. However, we would be most grateful if you would reinforce the importance of these measures with your child and the responsible steps they can take to keep themselves (and others) as safe as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing our students back at school in due course.



Yours sincerely

Ms S F Spivey
Headteacher, Springfield School
Chief Executive Officer, The De Curci Trust

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS – SEPTEMBER 2021

Guidance for Parents

The government has updated its guidance, 'What parents and carers need to know about ... schools ... during COVID-19'. This can be accessed via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The DfE's Education Hub has published 'Back to School – what you need to know' for families.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/08/24/back-to-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Self-Isolation Requirements

We are asking parents/carers to ensure that their child does not come into school if:

- they have one or more COVID-19 symptoms
- they have had a positive test for COVID-19
- they are required to quarantine for any other reason

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Please inform the school's Welfare and Attendance Team if your child is self-isolating (as above). Please also inform the school if another member of your household is self-isolating such that your child can be monitored carefully.

Pupils Who Become Unwell

If a pupil develops symptom(s) of COVID 19 during the school day they will be isolated and sent home as soon as possible. Please ensure that you are able to collect your child within 30 minutes (or make appropriate arrangements for them to go home) when they attend school in case this is needed. In these circumstances, parents/carers should follow Government guidance on self-isolation and book a test for their child.

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

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>



(Similarly, if a pupil receives a positive lateral flow device test, they will be sent home immediately to self-isolate and take a PCR test.)

Tracing Close Contacts

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.



Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR Test. We would strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so:

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

Face Masks

The Government recommends that face masks are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not ordinarily meet; this includes public transport.

Staff and visitors, including parents/carers, will be required to wear face masks in corridors and other communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained; it is strongly recommended (but not a requirement at present) that pupils do the same. It remains optional for facemasks to be worn in classrooms by pupils and staff should they wish to do so.

If there is an increase in the number of positive cases in the school Governors and/or a Director of Public Health may again require that face masks are worn.

Pupils should bring their own face mask to school each day with a sealable plastic bag in which to keep it; they are advised to take care to put on and remove their face mask correctly. (The school does keep a supply of spare face masks in school for which there is a nominal charge of £1.)

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face masks, including those with a physical impairment or disability.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

School Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Pupils



The UK Clinical Review Panel has recommended that all children and young people under the age of 18 should no longer be considered CEV and should be removed from the Shielded Patient List. CEV pupils should attend school. All children and young people should continue to follow the same guidance as everyone else, which can be found at: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

For a very few individual children specific clinical advice may be given and this should continue to be followed. Please contact a member of your child's Year Office Team if your child is CEV and you would like to discuss their return and/or risk assessment/support for school.

The Department for Health and Social Care have developed a FAQ that can be accessed online:

https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/pluginfile.php/170159/mod_resource/content/1/CYP%20FAQs%20FINAL.pdf

Travel to/from School

It remains sensible for staff, pupils and parents/carers to walk or cycle to school and avoid public transport, where possible. You can refer to the Government's safer travel guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

If you bring your child to school by car, please drop them off at a sensible distance from the entrance gate to avoid congestion and support distancing from others.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020#part-b-guidance-for-dedicated-transport-to-schools-and-other-places-of-education-for-the-2020-to-2021-academic-year>

Effective Hygiene

We are asking parents/carers to support the school by emphasising the importance of good hygiene to their child, including thorough and frequent hand washing, the use of alcohol sanitiser gel and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Please ensure that your child carries alcohol sanitiser gel and tissues with them each day.

Equipment

Pupils should refrain from sharing and borrowing each other's equipment. Therefore, we are asking parents/carers to ensure that their child always brings the correct equipment to school, including pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and calculator. Shared resources such as sports and IT equipment are cleaned (or quarantined) between uses.

Pupils and teachers can take books and other shared resources home. However, we will continue to avoid unnecessary sharing and contact with exercise books and other physical resources. Teachers will be using a variety of methods to feed back to pupils including via Google Classrooms, post-it notes and verbal modelling/feedback. Teachers will adapt their approach to best suit their subject.

Canteen



A canteen service will be available (predominantly 'grab and go' style) for pupils at their designated lunchtime. Free school meals (FSM) provision will continue, with support available for pupils eligible for FSM should they need to self-isolate. Please advise your child not to share snacks, sweets etc with friends/others.

Uniform / Ventilation

Usual school uniform expectations apply; it is obviously important that uniform and outerwear are washed frequently. During colder weather we advise that pupils wear extra layers underneath their uniform or bring an additional plain black jumper or cardigan (not hoodie) to wear in class as staff are required to keep windows open to promote natural ventilation in classrooms/work areas. Other than in very wet / extreme weather, pupils will be outside in the fresh air at break and lunchtimes and so will need suitable outerwear, please.

To reduce congestion and support good ventilation, the one-way system of movement around the school will remain in place; lockers will remain unavailable as we need to ensure corridor spaces are as open as possible. Different year groups will continue to have their break and lunchtimes at slightly different times and be directed to different 'zones' in the school for their recreation time.

Behaviour

Good conduct is expected from pupils at all times and this extends to cover the school's expectations regarding hygiene, sensible distancing and movement around the school.

The school will be reintroducing its internal isolation room this term. Pupils from different year groups will be sat in different areas of the room; consequently, places are limited. The school reserves the right under its behaviour policy to send a pupil home (exclude) if their conduct does not meet expectations.

We would ask parents/carers to support the school by reinforcing behaviour expectations with their child and emphasising the importance of following the school's routines, including those relating to good hygiene, sensible distancing and the wearing of face masks if required again.

Visitors

Visitors, including parents/carers, are allowed on site by appointment only; please contact the school in advance should you need to make an appointment with a specific member of staff. Please ensure that your child has what they need with them each day, e.g. PE kit, packed lunch, as Reception staff should not be routinely accepting these being dropped off later at the school.

Events

We hope that school events such as 'open evenings' and drama productions will be able to go ahead this year, but these will be risk assessed on a case by case basis and in the light of the local context/advice at the time. Schools are required to give particular consideration to ventilation and fresh air flow when holding events where visitors, including parents/carers, are on site; and this will impact upon arrangements.

Extra-Curricular Trips and Activities

The school will not be booking international trips at the current time. However, we plan to start domestic trips and visits again, subject to appropriate insurance and risk



assessment being in place. Assemblies will take place (in half year groups) again from the start of the autumn term.

COVID-19 Vaccination

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is not currently advising routine vaccination of children outside of these **groups*, but will keep their advice under review as more evidence becomes available on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children and young people.

**16 to 17 year olds; and 12 to 17 year olds with specific underlying health conditions*

Please note that the Solent School Aged Immunisation Team plan to deliver flu vaccinations to all pupils on 28 September 2021; further details will be sent next term.