

1 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

## Re: Phased Reopening of Schools from 8 March 2021

I am writing to you with information regarding our plans for phased reopening; as families are aware, we need to phase our students back to school in order to ensure that all students can be tested for COVID-19 in keeping with Government expectations. We are very much looking forward to having all of our students back on site with us and are working to manage this transition period as sensibly as possible, with our focus being on keeping everyone within our community safe and supporting students to re-adjust to the routines of school life.

### Reopening Plans / COVID-19 Testing

Governors have reviewed and agreed the school's reopening plans with the following principles in mind:

- All students should be offered COVID-19 lateral flow device tests in keeping with Government expectations; it is highly recommended that students take part in the testing programme (although it is not mandatory)
- In order for testing to be managed effectively and for other school operations to continue, the school will phase students back to school
- With additional staff/volunteers being successfully recruited, ideally the school should be in a position to test one year group per day (approx. 200 students); we want the testing experience for students to be as 'stress free' as possible
- Ideally the first two tests should be 3-5 days apart; students will not attend class on the day of their first test to minimise the risk of any transmission between students waiting for their initial test result i.e. they will attend the school site for their test only
- The DfE has asked schools to prioritise year groups 10 to 13 (as well as continue with provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children)

The programme for return is as follows:

Date	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
Thurs 4 March	Remote learning <b>Visit site for test 1</b>	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning
Fri 5 March	Remote learning	Remote learning <b>Visit site for test 1</b>	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning
Mon 8 March	Return to school <b>Test 2</b>	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning
Tues 9 March	Attend school	Return to school <b>Test 2</b>	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning
Wed 10 March	Attend school	Attend school	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning <b>Visit site for test 1</b>
Thurs 11 March	Attend school	Attend school	Remote learning	Remote learning <b>Visit site for test 1</b>	Return to school
Fri 12 March	Attend school	Attend school	Remote learning <b>Visit site for test 1</b>	Return to school	Attend School
Mon 15 March	Attend school	Attend school	Return to school	Attend school	Attend school <b>Test 2</b>
Tues 16 March	Attend school	Attend school	Attend school	Attend school <b>Test 2</b>	Attend school
Wed 17 March	Attend school	Attend school	Attend school <b>Test 2</b>	Attend school	Attend school

\*Note that the DfE has confirmed that testing can take place at schools prior to 8 March.

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So, taking Year 11 as an example – Year 11 students will visit the school briefly on Thursday, 4 March for their first COVID-19 test; they will return home after their test to await their result away from others. They will not attend lessons and remote learning will be provided. They will return to school and follow their normal timetable from Monday, 8 March (providing they have a negative test result). During the day (8 March) they will be withdrawn briefly from lessons for their second COVID-19 test. Thereafter, they will attend school following their timetable as normal.

### COVID-19 Lateral Flow Tests - Times

The times at which students should visit the school site for their first test are shown below (by Tutor Group). The school's onsite testing centre is based in the small sports hall. It is essential that students continue to follow the national lockdown restrictions and other social distancing / safety measures when travelling to and from school and when on site; they should access the school via their usual entrance point and walk directly to the small sports hall. Students will need to wear their uniform to visit the school and also wear their face mask while on site, please.

TIME→	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:00	14:30
<b>Y11</b> 4 Mar	11S	11P	11R	11N		11G		11F	11E		11L	11D
<b>Y10</b> 5 Mar	10S	10P	10R		10N	10G		10F		10E	10L	10D
<b>Y7</b> 10 Mar	7S	7P		7R	7N	7G			7E	7L	7D	
<b>Y8</b> 11 Mar	8S	8P		8R	8N	8G			8F	8E	8L	8D
<b>Y9</b> 12 Mar	9S	9P	9R	9N		9G		9F	9E		9L	9D

Arrangements for a third test and home testing will be confirmed at a later date. Students cannot be tested unless the school has received consent from their parents and should not attend the school site before their return to school date if not taking part in the testing scheme. (If you were unable to complete the consent form previously sent by today's deadline and would like your child to be tested, please complete the following online form ASAP, and at least two school days before your child's test:

<https://forms.gle/NTjx6HUYzpe55FSi9>

### Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children

The children of critical workers and eligible vulnerable children may continue to attend the school site (and access testing) as is the case now. However, from Monday 8 March the 'pod system' will cease and students should follow their normal timetable, including school start and end times. A copy of the structure of the school day is available on the school's website:

[https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/documents/Timetable\\_-\\_Spring\\_Term\\_2021.pdf](https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/documents/Timetable_-_Spring_Term_2021.pdf)

### Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Students

The current DfE advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally. Remote learning tasks will be set.



### Attendance

Please note that in line with this phased return, school attendance becomes mandatory again. Therefore, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school.

However, it is recognised that a small number of students will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive COVID-19 test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

Students must not attend the school site in these circumstances, including for the COVID-19 tests.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we transition our students back to school. I will write again with more general information regarding 'reopening' before 8 March; kindly note that further information regarding lateral flow tests is available on the school's website: [COVID19 Testing \(LFTs\)](#)

Yours sincerely

Ms S F Spivey  
CEO, Headteacher