



Head Teacher: Mr John Kulyk

3rd March 2021

RE: Full opening arrangements from 8 March

Dear parents and carers,

We are fast approaching the 8th of March, on which date all pupils will be returning to school. I understand that this will be an anxious time for many of you. I would like to reassure you that we are doing, and will do, everything we can to keep everyone safe. There will follow many pieces of advice on return to school to help us keep everyone safe during what is still a difficult transition and time. Upon the return of all pupils, will continue to keep very strict bubbles, no mixing of staff or pupils between classes. This will carry on until the Easter holidays. We will also be continuing with COVID-19 testing.

Attendance

From 8 March, attendance is mandatory for all pupils, and the usual rules for attendance apply.

If your child is following public health advice, e.g. they are shielding or have coronavirus, you will not be penalised for any non-attendance. Pupils not attending for these reasons will continue to receive remote education, where appropriate.

If your child is required to attend the school site but you are anxious or concerned, please get in touch with your child's class teacher or call us on 01384 818630 , and we can discuss your worries in more detail and provide any reassurance you need.

COVID-19 Rapid testing for secondary pupils

All secondary pupils will be offered rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) tests to check for asymptomatic cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). Secondary-age pupils will be offered three on-site LFD tests, three- to- five days apart when they initially return from 8 March. Testing is not mandatory, but is strongly recommended by the government. Consent will need to be obtained prior to these tests being carried out – this will be acquired in a separate letter. After

the first three tests, parents/carers can choose to test their child at home. You may have already received a phone call about this.

Secondary pupils testing at school

Halesbury has an on-site test centre, with trained staff, which has been operating since 11th January. All pupils for whom we have consent have been able to access testing on-site, with assistance provided for those who need it. We will continue to provide a testing service for those who need it, with most tests taking place on Mondays and Thursdays. Results will be sent to your email and/or mobile phone number.

Where we have consent for a pupil to be tested, but they do not want to take part on the day, they will not have to take the test. We will inform parents/carers if any pupil is unable to access testing.

Secondary pupils testing at home

Following three on-site LFD tests upon the initial return to school, pupils will be offered home testing kits to conduct LFD tests twice per week on a **Monday and Thursday** before school. If your child takes part in these tests, results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace, either online or by telephone, and should be shared with the school. Please email all test results to our email address which has been set up specifically for test results at:

covidtestresults@halesbury.dudley.sch.uk

Pupils aged 12 to 17 may be able to self-test and report their results under the supervision of an adult.

Pupils aged 11 should have their tests conducted by an adult.

Tests should be taken on Monday and Thursday mornings before school. Where pupils are unable or unwilling to self-test before school, please notify the class teacher or admin office and a test can be arranged on-site.

If your child tests negative in the LFD tests, they can continue to attend school, unless they start to display symptoms of coronavirus.

If your child receives a positive LFD test result **at home**, they should begin to self-isolate immediately, and book a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test which can be done at an NHS testing site, or via a home PCR test. In rare circumstances where your child cannot obtain a PCR test from a

testing site, the school has a small supply. Please get in touch with the school office if you think you cannot access a testing site or order a home testing kit.

A positive LFD test result **at school** will not currently require a confirmatory PCR test as the test is completed in a test centre with trained staff.

We appreciate all of your efforts made to conduct these tests, and thank you for your ongoing support in helping to create a safer school environment for our community.

Protective measures

In order to assist us in minimising risk of infection, please ensure your child is only bringing essential items to the school site each day, including:

- Lunch boxes
- Hats and coats
- Books
- Stationery
- School bags

Our Infection Control Policy will continue to be followed at all times.

Taxis

Dedicated school transport has been reinstated for all pupils who would normally use it from 8th March except for pupils who are self-isolating or shielding.

School meals

School meals cooked on site will resume from 8th March. Please ensure dinner money is sent in from this date for those who are not Free School Meals.

Face coverings in secondary

As was the case prior to the third national lockdown commencing in January 2021, pupils in Year 7 and above should wear a face covering when moving around the school premises, e.g. in corridors where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. The government also now recommends that **pupils and staff wear face coverings in classrooms** where social distancing cannot be maintained. Pupils exempt from wearing face coverings will not be required to wear one.

Please ensure your child has access to a face covering where they are not exempt from wearing one.

I am looking forward to welcoming back all pupils to Halesbury. We will as always continue to work with you to make this as smooth as possible and try to alleviate any anxiety you may feel. If there is any advice you need or arrangements you are unsure of, please do not hesitate to contact us to ask. May I thank you all for the amazing job you have done in supporting the school during COVID and the Lockdown.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Kulyk', written in black ink.

Mr J Kulyk
Head Teacher