

15th July 2021

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Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 TESTING/CHANGES TO RETURN DATES IN SEPTEMBER

I am writing to update you on the recently announced plans for asymptomatic Covid-19 testing in schools on return in September and how this will impact on you and your child.

I will attempt to keep things as clear and straightforward as possible, but as you will imagine there is a lot of information to share.

Overview

On **6/7/2021** the government announced and published its requirements for schools to ensure that students are tested in school for Covid-19 prior to their return in September.

Details of these changes can be found here:

<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/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

In short, schools have been asked to ensure that **ALL** secondary school students are tested **twice**, on school site, before returning to school. This is to ensure that transmission of Covid-19 in school is minimized before students start back following the summer break.

Therefore, as we did back in March, we will be setting up our in school testing centre to administer these tests.

In order to provide and manage over 2000 tests this will require a short delay to the start of term 1.

I understand that some of you will find this announcement frustrating; I can only assure you that as a school we would much rather start the term without this disruption and delay. However, as a school we are duty bound to do this, as directed by central government and the department for education, as part of their Covid-19 response.

The good news is that this announcement was accompanied by the removal of some current laws that require students to be schooled in “bubbles” and to isolate for 10 days if they have been in contact with a positive case of Covid-19. We will provide more information on this once the final details have been published. I sincerely hope that this will ensure that further disruption is reduced overall moving forward.

What this means for you and your child:

- The school will begin a timetable of **Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)** for all students from Thursday **2/9/2021**. This will involve students by year group visiting the school each day and taking a supervised lateral flow test (with a consent form submitted).
- We have been asked by the government to conduct 2 LFT's per child.
- Once these 2 supervised tests have been completed, each year group will return to school as per the schedule below. Following this, students will return to taking twice weekly lateral flow tests at home.
- These tests are only conducted with your written consent and whilst participation in these tests is strongly recommended we are not forcing children to take them or excluding them if they don't.
- Our Covid-19 LFT testing facility has been successfully up and running, as required, since January and is staffed by a fully trained and qualified team. It is a safe and fully compliant testing space.
- We are **not** able to accept Lateral Flow Test results from home kits. The government has been clear they want these tests to be administered in a supervised/controlled environment at school.

Timetable for Test and Return

Starting on **2/9/2021** we will be required to complete over 2000 lateral flow tests on staff and students and due to the scale of this task we can only complete 2-3 year groups per day. This means a phased start for each year group as permitted by the new guidance.

The timetable for the testing and the return to school for each year groups is detailed below.

Year Group	Test One	Test Two	School Term Start Day
7	2/9/2021 (Thursday)	6/9/2021 (Monday)	7/9/2021 (Tuesday)
8	3/9/2021 (Friday)	8/9/2021 (Wednesday)	9/9/2021 (Thursday)
9	3/9/2021 (Friday)	8/9/2021 (Wednesday)	9/9/2021 (Thursday)
10	7/9/2021 (Tuesday)	9/9/2021 (Thursday)	10/9/2021 (Friday)
11	7/9/2021 (Tuesday)	9/9/2021 (Thursday)	10/9/2021 (Friday)
12	2/9/2021 (Thursday)	6/9/2021 (Monday)	7/9/2021 (Tuesday)
13	7/9/2021 (Tuesday)	9/9/2021 (Thursday)	10/9/2021 (Friday)

As promised – we have ensured that the new year 7 have 2 days in school as part of their transition process, ahead of other year groups returning.

Test Days

On the timetabled 'test day' your child will need to visit the school to undertake a short lateral flow test, online consent forms are provided and will need to be completed by **no later than Wednesday 28th July 2021**. A result will be recorded and sent to your child or the registered contact details as soon as the result is confirmed. If test one is negative your child will be able to attend school as per the timetable for test two and subsequently for their start date. If the test is positive we will inform you and you will be required to follow the NHS guidelines to isolate.

Tests take about 10 minutes to complete and the test site will be open all day and will now be located in the **new sports hall**.

The testing facility will be open to students in the year groups on the timetable above from **09:00- 15:00** each day. There is plenty of in person queuing space to keep all students and staff appropriately distanced.

Following the test, your child will be required to leave the school. They can be dropped off/picked up outside our sports hall and can be accompanied to complete the test if you do not think they are able to do it themselves.

You can arrive at any time to complete your test but parking is limited so please avoid the start and end of the day if at all possible as we expect these times to be busy. We have left visiting times open to accommodate your personal commitments rather than provide an exact time slot.

If you have 2 children in different year groups at the school, they can both visit on the same day as long as this is before their return.

Please note that your child cannot be supervised following their test and should be taken/should return home following their test.

Consent Form:

We have created a secure online consent form that must be completed alongside our privacy notice (attached to this email). This is all that will need to be completed to give consent for the test and to streamline the registration process on the day. **We are not able to conduct a test in school without this consent form being completed.**

The consent form must be completed by **no later than Wednesday 28th July 2021**. **When completing the form it will ask for the year group, this must be the year your child will be in from September.**

To complete an online consent form please click the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDwJGXTjJ-HRxd7ptle03DeJXAnrKe64IOW1GKuwwXrbQ_Bw/viewform

- Link to Data protection notice for testing:

<http://www.wrothamschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Data-Protection-Covid-FAQ-1.pdf>

- Link to Privacy statement for testing:

<http://www.wrothamschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Wrotham-School-PRIVACY-STATEMENT-COVID-TESTING.pdf>

Unfortunately we are not able to use previous consent forms twice and do ask that the form is completed even if you have completed one before.

More information about schools and “step 4” can be found here:

<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/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

Yours sincerely



Mr M Cater
Headteacher