



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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DAI

24 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We know that you will have been keeping yourselves up to date with the latest announcements from Central Government regarding the “**Roadmap for Leaving Lockdown**” and the return of our pupils to school from 8 March. We appreciate that these are uncertain times for us all, and that what you require from us is a clear plan outlining how we intend to do this.

As school leaders we have been issued with documentation containing guidance on how this is expected to be done. Part of the “**Return to Education plan**” includes offering every pupil the opportunity to be **tested in school for coronavirus 3 times**; each test being between 3 and 5 days apart. This is designed to pick up on any asymptomatic pupils who may be infected by the coronavirus, but who do not show any symptoms. Although this testing of pupils is voluntary, I would recommend that you give it serious consideration.

We all understand that it is better for pupils to be taught in school by their teachers, engaging in all of the activities and routines that a secondary education affords. We want to make sure that we make the transition back to school for our pupils and their families as straight forward as possible. Just today the DFE have agreed that schools can start testing pupils for coronavirus prior to the 8 March, as well as allowing schools to have the flexibility to have a staggered start for different year groups to enable testing to be carried out.

We think that it makes sense to test all of our pupils for coronavirus **before they return to school**. In order to do this, we will start our testing programme on **Monday 1 March**, in accordance with the testing schedule below. Each pupil who is being tested will be given a time slot to attend school within their year group time allocation (we will try to accommodate siblings to attend at the same time if this is feasible). As you can see from the schedule below, this will enable us to have all year groups return to school on Wednesday 10 March, avoiding any staggered starts for different year groups.

During the testing process, teachers will continue to deliver online live lessons as per your child’s school timetable - **EXCEPT** for when your child’s year group are being tested, and no live lessons for Y9 P4+5 on the days that they are being tested to allow them to travel into school. When there are no live lessons, work will be set in FOLDR and instructions left for your child on how to complete the work.



| Date | Year groups to be tested / session time | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 9a.m. - 12p.m. | 12p.m. - 3p.m. | 3p.m. - 6.p.m. |
| Monday 1/3 | Y11 | Y10 | Y9 |
| Tuesday 2/3 | Y8 | Y7 | |
| Wednesday 3/3 | NO TESTING TO BE CARRIED OUT | | |
| Thursday 4/3 | Y11 | Y10 | Y9 |
| Friday 5/3 | Y8 | Y7 | |
| Monday 8/3 | Y11 | Y10 | Y9 |
| Tuesday 9/3 | Y8 | Y7 | |
| N.B. All pupils will return to school fulltime from 10 March. | | | |

So that we can create a schedule to manage all of the tests, we need your help. We need our Parents / Carers to let us know whether they give us consent to carry out testing for coronavirus with their child. The following link will direct you to the form to fill in to give your consent – [CORONAVIRUS CONSENT FORM TO BE FILLED IN](#). Please note that if we do not receive the consent form, your child will not be tested. Nil returns will indicate that you do not consent to your child being tested.

So that we can organise the appointments schedule, we would appreciate it if these forms could be filled in and returned as soon as possible, but certainly **no later than 10 a.m. Friday 26 February**. We appreciate that this is a tight turn around, but the forms are really straightforward to fill in and it does mean that we can get our pupils back to school as soon as we can. Further details will be issued, along with appointments, regarding the procedure for testing in school – at this point we simply need to know who gives their consent.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued support as we all try to do the best for our pupils to ensure that we minimise the impact of this pandemic on them.

Yours faithfully

David Airey

Mr. D. Airey
Headteacher

