



Fairlands Middle School

Caring and Inspirational



5 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for the many supportive messages that I have received this week in response to my letter outlining our full re-opening plans.

I am happy to confirm that our plans remain the same as those shared with you:

- Monday 8 March: Year 5 and Year 6 pupils return to Fairlands. Year 8 pupils will attend only to receive their booked lateral flow test (LFT).
- Tuesday 9 March: Year 5, Year 6 and Year 8 pupils are in school. Year 7 pupils will attend only to receive their booked LFT.
- Wednesday 10 March: All years are in school.

With regards the LFT testing, the results will be communicated to parents/carers by either email or text from the NHS later in the day of testing. You do not need to wait outside or phone school for the result.

In addition can I please draw your attention to the following:-

Face Coverings

Although children in primary schools are not required to wear a face covering, the DfE advice remains that face coverings **should be worn by all pupils and staff in all locations where social distancing cannot be easily achieved**. This is for any schools with children that have Year 7 and above aged pupils. We, therefore, strongly recommend that **ALL** our pupils wear a face covering and that they have a spare with them at all times. We will be looking to provide regular mask breaks where possible. Thank you to those families that have provided us with notice of medical exemptions.

Home testing kits

All of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will receive a home testing LFT kit following their three tests in school. They should then test twice weekly at home. There has been Government advice that adults in households with school-aged children can also access rapid test kits. We will not provide these. The message from the DfE is as follows:-

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice weekly:-

- *Through your employer, if they offer testing to employees.*
- *By collecting a home testing kit from a local test site. Anyone over the age of 18 can access two packs each containing seven tests. Our nearest collection centre is Bridgwater.*
- *By ordering a home test kit online. This should only be done if you are unable to access either of the options above as it frees up delivery for those who need it most. The link can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>*



Fairlands Middle School

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E-Mail: office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk Website: www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Stefan McHale
Deputy Headteachers: Helen Heffernan and Kate Persaud
Associate Leaders: Robert Cooling and Matthew Vincent SENDCo

Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224



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I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on a couple of staffing changes. Kirstie Thomson will join us from Monday 8 March as a teacher of Humanities, covering for Imogen Malykh who will start her maternity leave. Declan Murphy will be the acting Head of Year 7. Therefore, Dr Thomson will also take over as tutor of 8 Blackdown. I have no doubt that Mr Murphy will continue with Mrs Malykh's good pastoral work and that Dr Thomson will prove an excellent addition to our teaching team.

Finally, I would again like to thank all families for their support, hard work and commitment during this period of remote learning. We are really looking forward to welcoming the pupils back to school next week and working face to face with them once again.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



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