



# Wadebridge School

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25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Key Information regarding the return to face to face education for all pupils**

Following the Prime Minister's announcements on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, where he laid out the roadmap for easing lockdown measures, I am writing to add some additional details that may not have been obvious from that announcement, and from subsequent news articles.

This will cover:

- administering the 3 required Lateral Flow tests (3-5 days apart) before home testing begins
- when each year group will return to face to face lessons
- Re-establishing our on-going safety measures

## **Testing & Return to Face to Face Education**

Even though the Prime Minister publicly announced that all schools would be open to all pupils from the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the details then passed on to schools included the need for all pupils to have received a negative result from the first of their 3 tests, before they resume face to face education.

Schools have been asked to phase the testing and return of pupils (prioritising years 10 and 11) during the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March in order to achieve this in the safest way possible.

As I am sure you would agree, even though we all want a return to face to face education for our children as soon as possible, having the whole school return on that Monday morning, having mixed on the buses, in the playground and in their lessons would not be the best, or safest way forward.

Therefore, we will be testing one or two whole year groups per day, in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with subsequent testing taking place during the following week. As soon as a year group has had their first test and shown a negative result they will resume their normal timetabled lessons (it will be a Week 1).

Our online Blended Learning and provision for vulnerable pupils and those of Key Workers will continue as normal until their specific year group has returned to face to face education.

**Transport** – all buses and any taxi provision will revert back to the normal pre-lockdown timetable. If your child has been attending school during this lockdown, please remind them of this for the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**On their first day back in school, pupils must be in full school uniform and report to their Tutor Room** as soon as they arrive on site. Thus reducing the number of contacts and allowing us to welcome the children back, go through the testing process and brief them on the "systems of control" that help ensure the school is as safe as possible.

Year Group	Date of 1 <sup>st</sup> Test 1 <sup>st</sup> day in school	Date of 2 <sup>nd</sup> test	Date of 3 <sup>rd</sup> test
11	8 <sup>th</sup> March	11 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> March
10	9 <sup>th</sup> March	12 <sup>th</sup> March	16 <sup>th</sup> March
7	10 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> March	18 <sup>th</sup> March
8	11 <sup>th</sup> March	16 <sup>th</sup> March	19 <sup>th</sup> March
9	12 <sup>th</sup> March	17 <sup>th</sup> March	22 <sup>nd</sup> March

If you had already given consent for your child to be tested, we will carry that permission forward. If you didn't give consent at the start of January 2021 then please click on the link below to access the consent statement (one per pupil) and then "submit". If you can't remember whether you did or didn't please e-mail [parents@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:parents@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk) and we will check for you.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s1oTnaG2G0Gq8rZpi-Tb4W2uUIBMTaNOokxGMktszI1UM0xHVENWMERDVFFKWEpNWjIXUE1SM1RMUy4u>

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of your nose and throat. To date we have administered over 1500 tests to staff and pupils and our systems, knowledge and practice are well established and rigorous.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/946612/How\\_to\\_do\\_your\\_test\\_COVID\\_19\\_instruction\\_leaflet\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How_to_do_your_test_COVID_19_instruction_leaflet_for_schools.pdf)

Results take approximately 30 minutes to come through and hopefully everyone will be negative, but we will of course contact you if your child receives a positive test result. Any pupil who receives a positive result will be isolated immediately and we will ask parents to collect them.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

After the 3 supervised tests have been completed in school, home testing will be introduced for secondary age pupils (11+) with home testing kits being provided to test twice weekly. It is important that pupils and students are initially supervised whilst swabbing, to make sure they are doing it correctly, and this is why testing will initially take place in school. We will provide more details about this process as we receive it.

### **Safety Measures**

As all pupils were in school during the Autumn term and we have continued to be open for our vulnerable and "Key Worker" children from January 2021, our safety measures are well established and routine. However, for the majority of our pupils, there has been a break since that time, so we'd be grateful if you could discuss with, and remind your child of the following key things. Tutors will also be covering the testing procedures and safety measures on their first day back as well.

### **Movement Around School:**

Our planned system for moving around school is still in place to ensure that there is no face to face "crossing" in the corridors or places where a large number of pupils may come together at once

Pupils must enter and exit buildings and classrooms by specific doors.

Each year group has an allocated "outside" space where they must stay at break and lunch time.

**Pupils will still not be able to mix with pupils from other year groups.**

If the weather is wet or inclement then pupils go to their Tutor rooms. It is very important that pupils go to their own Tutor room to avoid unnecessary mixing with others.

**Cleaning**

Pupils will stay in their year group “bubbles” for all lessons.

Desks / chairs and any other key surfaces will continue to be cleaned at the end of every lesson. We still have extra cleaning staff on site during the day who regularly clean “touch” areas such as door handles, the stair bannisters and toilets; although we will also wedge as many doors open as possible to reduce this level of contact.

**Personal Hygiene**

All pupils will still be encouraged and reminded to **wash their hands** regularly throughout the day.

Pupils will still be encouraged to think about their respiratory hygiene through “**catch it, bin it, kill it**”.

Hand sanitiser is available at key points around school, but again we ask that **ALL pupils bring their own hand sanitiser to school** so they can use it whenever they feel the need to and increase their confidence.

**Face Masks**

Unless exempt (wearing their lanyard), our pupils were all wearing face coverings in the corridors and any communal areas. The Government have now stated that face coverings be worn in classrooms or during activities where social distancing cannot be maintained. This does not apply to PE, any other strenuous activity, or outdoors.

**Therefore, it is vital that your child brings their face covering to school with them and wears it at the stated times. They may need more than one.**

**Break / Lunch / Use of the Canteen:**

Again, please ensure that you have put **money onto your child’s account** via the on-line system if you want them to be able to buy food in the canteen, as we are still unable to clean the machines where pupils enter their “cash” after each use, and they are not available for use by pupils.

Please remind your child to bring their own **water bottle**. All our **water dispensers** use “push paddles” but these are regularly cleaned.

Pupils will still only be able to **buy food** from the canteen at **one set time:**

**11.30am** Yr 11 in the Senior Canteen

Yr 8 in the Junior Canteen

**1.30pm** Yr 9 and 10 in the Senior Canteen (week 1 year 9 first, week 2 year 10 first)

Yr 7 in the Junior Canteen

Pupils will be asked to use hand sanitiser upon entry to the canteen

Pupils will need to ensure that they have enough food / snacks / extra packed lunch for the day, and are encouraged to eat during both breaks.

### **In Lessons**

All safety measures regarding the lending of equipment will still be followed, but pupils must ensure that they have their **own personal equipment** e.g. pens, pencils, calculators etc, with them so that additional issues don't arise.

Where possible, all teachers will still maintain at least a 2-metre distance from their pupils.

Any staff, particularly Teaching Assistants, who may need to come closer to pupils for a very short time, in order to help or support them, will be wearing a mask.

### **Rewards and Sanctions:**

We will continue to use ClassCharts in order to communicate with you at home when your child has done well or gained rewards such as "Star of the Week" and we will also be following our usual behaviour policy, which includes an addendum. This accounts for the current circumstances.

<https://www.wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk/assets/file/Behaviour%20Policy%20COVID-19%20Addendum%20Jan2021.pdf>

One rule that some pupils found difficult to follow during the Autumn term was to keep their social distance during breaks. Many stood huddled in groups or pushed and shoved each other whilst in their allocated areas. We do understand that teenagers will be teenagers, but they must keep their distance in order to support all the systems that we have in place in school.

If any pupil cannot, or will not follow reasonable instructions, especially if this links to our efforts to keep everyone as safe as possible, then they will be isolated from their peers and you will be asked to come in to discuss a way forward.

We hope that this information covers all that you need to know before 8<sup>th</sup> March and that this "roadmap" will bring an end to any further need for lockdown measures for us all. Our approach to testing, although logistically challenging, will provide the safest return to face to face education for our children. We will provide you with updated information as and when necessary.

However, as always, if you have any questions or need advice then please e-mail [parents@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:parents@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk) or phone us at school on 01208 812881

Thank you for your continued support, messages of encouragement and I promise that we will do our very best to get "back to the new normal" as soon as possible.

*Miss Yardley*