

Kirkbie Kendal School

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PHn/BPe

25th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I hope you were able to enjoy a break during the half-term and that you are keeping well.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school. As you are probably aware the Government has provided guidance on bringing students back into school from the week commencing Monday 8th March. Prior to face to face lessons, schools are required to have students self-test for CV-19 using lateral flow test devices. We strongly support this because the testing will help make the school safer for students and staff as well as the wider community. The critical worker children who have been attending school have already been using the lateral flow tests successfully every week this year.

Testing

To enable us to complete the testing in advance of face to face lessons, Monday 8th March and Tuesday 9th March will be used to test every student and students will only attend school for their test. Students will be in school for lessons from Wednesday 10th March.

The requirement is to test every child once before they come back into school and then twice more. After the first test on Monday or Tuesday when students are back in class, students will leave lessons for 15 minutes to complete their second and third tests. The tests all need to be 3-5 days apart. We cannot start any testing before 8th March and obviously we want to get the children back into school as swiftly and safely as possible. The plan below is how we think we can best deliver this.

Children will, as per the table overleaf, come in for a test session with their year group. It is important that they remember to maintain social distancing at all times on their journey to and from school. We will send you a specific time for your child in the near future. If you have any transport issues or other concerns please let your Head of Year know and we will do all we can to support you.

Students will go to Kendal Leisure Centre side entrance where they will be greeted and they will then have their test. The children will be testing themselves. Staff, including form tutors, will be on hand to support and reassure the children.

Warm clothing is advised in case there is a need to queue outside the building but students do not need to be in uniform.

After testing, the children go home. This will avoid any mixing on site prior to the results being known and so reduce the risk of any children having to self-isolate due to being a close contact.

We will register the children for testing, you do not need to do this at home.

Thank you for all the consent forms completed on Edulink - we are up at 80% already. The success of this public health measure depends on as many people as possible participating. **Please ensure that you have completed a consent form (on Edulink) and that mobile phone contact numbers are up to date, also on Edulink by midnight on Sunday 28th February.** Instructions on how to use Edulink to provide consent are here:

<http://www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk/filedownload/A9622E91-F751-3433-257C7BFAC679326B.pdf/edulink-instructions--how-to-provide-parental-consent-for-cv19-test--18.12.20.pdf> and attached.

Results will be sent to the child's school email address. We will make direct contact with any parent/carer of a child that has tested positive as they will need to self-isolate for 10 days.

	Date/ Time	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Week One	Monday 8 th March	Year 11 Test 1	Year 10 Test 1	Year 12 and 13 Test 1
	Tuesday 9 th March	Year 8 Test 1	Year 7 Test 1	Year 9 Test 1
	Wednesday 10 th March	All students return to school All subsequent testing is done during a normal school day		
	Thursday 11 th March	Year 11 Test 2	Year 10 Test 2	Year 12 and 13 Test 2
	Friday 12 th March	Year 8 Test 2	Year 7 Test 2	Year 9 Test 2
Week Two	Monday 15 th March	Year 11 Test 3	Year 10 Test 3	Year 12 and 13 Test 3
	Tuesday 16 th March	Year 8 Test 3	Year 7 Test 3	Year 9 Test 3
	Wednesday 17 th March	Students and staff will have tests to do at home twice weekly		

Return to School

Wednesday 10th March becomes a normal school day on which every child returns, having had one test. As part of our return to school plan, we want our students to have a full 'normal' day in school to remind them of their usual routines and help reassure them. The day will start with a form period to help support the welcome back to school and answer any questions they may have. After that it will be normal lessons, breaks, etc. **Friday 19th March was going to be a training day for staff but is now a normal school day for all students.**

Students will need to return to school on Wednesday 10th March in full school uniform or PE kit on days they have PE on their timetables.

As well as the safety measures in place in school between September and January, there is the additional requirement for students and staff to wear masks in classrooms as well as in the corridors and communal areas. Therefore please ensure that your child has a mask every day as well as a spare mask in their school bag. **Please also note that to increase safety measures the end of the school day for Years 7 to 9 will change to 2.50pm instead of 2.55pm.**

After the third test in school, students will be given lateral flow tests to take home and use at home. We will send more information about this home with these test kits.

FAQs

What are the changes to rules about masks?

As directed by the Government, all staff and students, unless they have a medical exemption,

Students will need to wear their masks in classrooms (unless they can social distance), on corridors and inside communal areas until at least Easter.

Is testing compulsory?

Testing is not compulsory. Any child that is not tested returns to school on Wednesday 10th March. We really do encourage every child to be tested to reduce the need to have to send students home to self-isolate as the result of being a close contact and to support the national public health effort.

Will school be closed for the second and third round of testing?

No. The second tests will take place in school on Thursday and Friday of that week and the third and final tests will be completed on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th March. These follow up tests will take place during the school day.

Will it be usual dinner time arrangements?

Yes - using the same arrangements as before Christmas.

Will key worker provision be available on 8th and 9th March?

Vulnerable and Key worker provision will continue on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th March for those who need it.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Hyman
Headteacher