



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/SXG

13 July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Arrangements for September 2021

On Tuesday 6 July 2021, the Government announced that as part of Step 4 of the roadmap, from September 2021 it is proposing to reduce a number of Covid-19 restrictions, which have been in place in schools for the last 18 months. This decision has been made by the Government to reduce the disruption to young people's education – particularly as the clinical risks to children from Covid-19 are low and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by September. The lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in school is in line with the proposed general removal of restrictions in England.

This move is welcomed by the school as our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education for all pupils. However, we also recognise that it is important that the school continues to play its part in controlling the spread of the virus through protective measures. *Appendix 1* (at the end of this letter) details the Covid-19 measures which are being removed in September 2021 in school and those which remain in place following the Department for Education published guidance. **I would be grateful if you would discuss these measures with your child before the start of next term.** The Government has highlighted that schools may need to step measures up in the future if circumstances change.

The Department for Education's 'Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance' published on 6 July 2021 stated '*as pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, as soon as possible on their return in the Autumn Term and schools can stagger the return of pupils to manage this*'. The Government has strongly recommended that parents give consent for their child to have these tests in September to detect asymptomatic cases of Covid-19.

In order to be able to carry out the first on-site lateral flow device test in school, students will, therefore, return to school in September on the dates shown below. Students joining Years 10-13 in September will be able to book a slot for their first Covid-19 test on the designated day prior to their return to school date whilst students joining Years 7-9 will take their first Covid-19 test on the morning of their first day in school.

Staggered Return to School

Return to School Date	Year Group (Sept 21)	First On-Site Covid-19 Test Offered
Friday 3 September 2021	7	Friday 3 September 2021
Monday 6 September 2021	8	Monday 6 September 2021
Monday 6 September 2021	10	Thursday 2 September 2021 (INSET day) **
Monday 6 September 2021	11	Friday 3 September 2021 **
Tuesday 7 September 2021	12 and 13	Monday 6 September 2021 **
Tuesday 7 September 2021	9	Tuesday 7 September 2021
All pupils are back in school on Tuesday 7 September 2021		

** Years 10-13 in September should attend school for their Covid-19 test and then return home. These students will have had their first test before they return to school.



Further information for our new Year 12 students will be sent out in August 2021 after Sixth Form enrolment.

The testing arrangements will replicate the ones used when the school reopened in March 2021. The school has employed a certified company with fully trained staff to help organise and supervise the tests, which will be carried out in the Sports Hall. Parents will only be informed if the lateral flow test is positive.

A separate letter will be sent to you asking for you to complete the Department for Education/NHS Consent Form giving permission for your child to have the 2 on-site lateral flow tests in school and explaining how the tests will work. It will also include a link for the new Year 10-13 students to book a test time. Please can all parents complete this form, even if you have completed it previously for the mass testing in March 2021, so that we have accurate information.

The second lateral flow device test will be taken in school between 3-5 days after having the first test. At the start of term students will be issued with a home lateral flow device test kit to be used twice weekly until the end of September when they are due to be reviewed by the Government. Further information on the home testing kits will follow in September.

Please note that the Government has paused the issuing of home lateral flow test kits for students over the summer holidays, but you are able to collect them from your local pharmacy or they can be ordered online: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. Any students who have not yet carried out a home lateral flow device test may also find it helpful to practise taking the tests over the summer holidays ready for September.

Please note it is imperative that if your child has, or is showing **symptoms of, Covid-19:**

- **High temperature**
- **New, continuous cough**
- **Loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste,**

they **must not attend school** and should remain at home in line with [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK](#). They should take a PCR test within 2 days and only return to school if the test result is negative. Parents should follow the NHS Test and Trace process.

Our relationship with parents is key to the successful opening of the school in September and for students to understand their shared responsibility in this process.

If you have any student-related questions, please contact your child's Head of Year.

I will be sending you a copy of the Parents' Newsletter before the end of term, which will include my end-of-term letter to parents.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher



Covid-19 Arrangements at William Farr C.E. Comprehensive School in September 2021

NB. These measures follow current Government guidance in line with Step 4 of the roadmap, but could change.

Protection measures being removed in September 2021
Year-group bubbles, social distancing and zoned areas – school will return to normal lesson times.
Staggered breaks/lunches/dismissal times – school will return to normal day structure with all year groups on the same break/lunch/dismissal times.
10 days' isolation for close contacts of a confirmed case and adults fully vaccinated.
Wearing face coverings in school and on buses (although still recommended on buses).
Packed lunches for all students.
Front car parking for parents, rear car park for staff – both car parks can be used by parents and staff.
Restrictions on school trips (except international), drama, music, sporting activities and clubs. These will recommence in a phased approach.
One-way system in school and designated toilets for year groups.

Protection measures in place in September 2021
School will continue to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.
Two on-site Lateral Flow Device tests at the start of term for each student 3 to 5 days apart.
Good personal hygiene – regular handwashing/sanitising.
Good respiratory hygiene – 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.
Ventilation of occupied rooms/assemblies.
Regular cleaning regime.
Positive cases or anyone with symptoms (<i>high temperature, new continuous cough, loss/change to smell or taste</i>) MUST NOT come to school and MUST self-isolate. Anyone in school with symptoms will be sent home. A PCR test must be taken within 2 days. If the PCR test result is negative, the student/staff member can return to school. If the PCR test result is positive they MUST self-isolate and follow NHS Test and Trace advice.
Close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace. Close contacts DO NOT need to self-isolate and can attend school, but should take a PCR test.
School Risk Assessment for any outbreak.
Lateral Flow Device home testing twice weekly (to be reviewed by DfE at end of September).
Small Asymptomatic Testing Site in school for any pupil who is unable/unwilling to test themselves at home.
Use of Staff Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in school for anyone with symptoms.
Canteen to be fully open for purchase of hot food using biometrics fingerprinting – parents to load money onto SQUID account before start of term.
Remote education provision for students self-isolating having tested positive.
Continued student welfare.
Continued online parents' evenings.

School attendance remains mandatory for all students in September 2021.

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