

5th March 2020

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

It is a pleasure to be writing to you on a day with blue skies and sunshine, knowing that Meadowfield will see the return of all pupils on Monday, with the exception of those who have received new shielding letters.

I hope that I answered your questions in my previous letter and I thank you for the information you have provided Teachers regarding testing.

When I last wrote to you, I stated that we may be in a position to test a small number of pupils (*this only applies to secondary and 6th Form pupils*) in school. Since that time, we have requests from 50 families who wish the school to actually do the test on their children in school. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate this large number requests, so we are therefore asking those families to try and test at home.

We have had 50+ families request support from school staff to enable their son/daughter to self-administer the test in school. School staff can offer verbal support only, for example direction and encouragement and written permission is required for this, please see attached.

I would like to assure you that our risk assessment has been updated taking into account the latest government guidance. We take our system of controls very seriously as our number one aim is to create a safe environment for all pupils and staff. We will continue to communicate changes to our practices to all families and we will also continue to address your questions in a swift manner.

Pupil attendance is mandatory from 8th March and we understand that some pupils may be anxious or reluctant to return to school. All staff will support each child or young adult in a nurturing way to ensure a smooth transition back into school, particularly those pupils who have not been in school for some time. Our emphasis will continue to be on the Recovery Curriculum. Our Recovery Curriculum takes into account the fact that each child and young person has experienced a ranges of losses, including loss of routine, learning, social opportunities and therapeutic support. These losses may have resulted in anxiety, gaps in learning and negative impact on mental health. For more information on our Recovery Curriculum, please visit our website.

Lastly for now, I would like to strongly encourage families to support the asymptomatic testing programme for the sake of all of our staff and pupils. The most recent guidance from the government on special schools states:

Asymptomatic cases comprise up to a third of all COVID-19 cases and rapidly identifying and containing them will help stop individuals who carry the infection unknowingly spreading it.'

Testing for our secondary and 6th Form pupils is voluntary but strongly encouraged and we greatly appreciate your support in helping to keep our school safe and therefore able to remain open for all pupils.

Yours faithfully



Jill Palmer
Principal

Attached – Testing Consent Form and Information – **Secondary & 6th Form pupils only** – **Please return the form with your child on Monday 8th March if you wish your child to self-administer a test.** If you are unable to download the consent form, copies are available from the office both at Swanstree and Ufton Lane sites.