

Dear families

As mentioned in my newsletter to you all last week we are looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back next Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March following the announcement by the Prime Minister on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We are expecting all pupils back from the 8<sup>th</sup> March although families may have discussed with class teams where circumstances mean that individual return to school plans have been put into place. Where this is the case can you please continue to report absence as you would normally whilst those plans are in place. For those pupils who use Local Authority transport we have contacted them so that they are aware that it is 'business as usual' and so there is no need for families to contact them directly.

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> of January all staff have been offered twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests as an additional control measure to minimise the risk of transmission. Staff have also been given the opportunity to have the vaccine. LFD testing will continue to be offered for staff until Easter when we will be reviewing all systems and risk assessments relating to C-19. Of course we will as well continue to carefully follow the national guidelines that remain in place. It is important that we are vigilant and follow the protocols which are there to protect us all. These include keeping an appropriate social distance, wearing a face covering in public places, temperature checks, maximising ventilation as well as washing our hands frequently and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds each time.

I have been made aware that many family members may be registered as carers (regardless of whether you are in receipt of carers allowance) and as such may be entitled to early access to the vaccine, please register with your GP as a carer to access. All our families, their support bubbles and childcare providers are entitled to access home test kits for twice weekly testing. This is an important additional step to help limit chains of transmission and will be a

massive step to help reduce numbers of C-19 at Brent Knoll and in the wider community and we strongly advise that you take up the offer. Although we do not provide them they can be ordered online and delivered or collected from a local testing centre and all the information can be found [here](#).

In line with Government and Public Health England advice we will not be offering LFD testing to pupils from EYFS to Year 6 as transmission rates in that group are lower.

The school will be offering supervised but self-administered LFD tests for pupils from Y7-Y11. If a family wish for their child to access testing at school to 'learn' the technique the offer will be available on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March only. If you wish to register your pupil to do this you will need to complete a consent form and the link can be found [here](#) which will cover the three dates. We understand that as the test is quite invasive needing to swab the back of the throat, which can cause a gagging sensation, and then swabbing the nasal passage many of our young people may not be able to do this independently. Due to the sensory issues that many of our young people have this may cause discomfort at least and distress for some. We therefore ask you to consider whether the administration is something that your child could realistically do. Even with consent if your child doesn't want to take the test on the day or has difficulty completing the test it will not be conducted.

The tests are not mandatory and as mentioned earlier you can access tests that can be administered at home. After March 15<sup>th</sup> testing we will provide tests that can be administered at home and only those pupils who can confidently self-administer will be able to take tests within school.

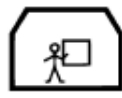
I do hope that this makes our intention for wider opening clear but if you need clarity over any issue please contact the school.

To help prepare pupils for the return I am attaching a social story about the return to school which may help you to prepare your child for the return.

Kind regards



Andy Taylor



School next week



On



Monday

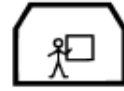


I will be



going back

to



school.



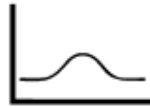
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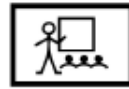
in



my



normal



classroom



with



my teacher,



support staff



and



my



friends.



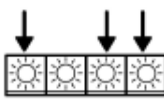
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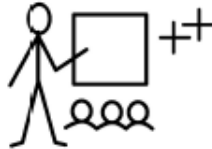
doing



my



usual



lessons



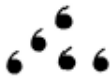
and



other



fun



things.



I will



play



in the



playground.



I will



eat



lunch



in the



hall



or



in the



classroom.



It



will

be



fun!