



26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Summary as Spring Term ends and information for start of Summer Term**

I am writing to let you know that as we come to the end of the Spring Term I am thankful for your support and proud of the way our children have managed, coped, behaved, excelled, developed and reengaged with school life as a consequence of the challenges of a third national lockdown. I recall writing to you once before and stating that if someone had told me two years ago that we would be reopening school in September 2020 to children wearing facemasks and having to hand sanitise as part of a school routine, I would not have believed them; now, a further twelve months on I did not envisage that schools would have had to establish Asymptomatic Testing Sites (ASTs) as part of a national programme of mass testing and that for a second year, examinations at Key Stage 4 (KS4) and Key Stage 5 (KS5) would have been cancelled. Life has been very different over the last twelve months with so many lives lost to COVID-19 and restrictions that have meant we have not been able to be with other family members, socialise with friends and in many cases not go to work and not go to school. However, there is great resilience amongst us; we have overcome so many challenges and changes and realise how important it is to continue with the focus on providing as safe an environment as possible to welcome children back to school and continue to work together on this journey through uncharted waters. We await Government announcements after their review of stage one of their Roadmap for lifting lockdown restrictions.

**Asymptomatic Testing**

I have previously written to you about the success of the Lateral Flow Tests through our Asymptomatic Testing Site (AST); we completed three thousand two hundred and fifty four Lateral Flow Tests over eleven days with only one positive test result of a student who had returned from a ten-day self-isolation due to a family member having COVID-19. I give thanks to everyone involved but especially the team working in the Asymptomatic Testing Site; we had many children sneezing, coughing or leaving with watering eyes. Our children have done us proud, many said thank you, were polite, courteous and considerate of others being tested – it makes you feel good when the “Herculean Effort” pays off and proud to be Headteacher – another example of us being together, resilient and caring.

This week has presented a set of challenges that we have not had to deal with for some time. Following the distribution of Home Test Kits, we have received many results of negative tests, but we did begin on Wednesday to receive positive results for Lateral Flow Tests using Home Testing Kits. The guidance requires the following response:

Pupils who are in a friendship/social group or sits in proximity in lessons to someone who tests positive on a Lateral Flow Test must be at home and self-isolate for a period of ten days

The child who has tested positive on a Lateral Flow Test using a Home Testing Kit must book a PCR Test with NHS

- If the PCR test is negative, then all those told to self-isolate will not be required to continue to self-isolate as long as they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19
- If the PCR following a positive Lateral Flow Test is positive, then the contacts must complete the ten-day self-isolation period

Since Wednesday we have had:

Five cases in Year 8; three of which were first identified by Lateral Flow Test with all confirmed by PCR. There are only two cases in this group that are as a result of a friendship group, the others are unrelated and therefore isolated cases

Two cases in Year 9; one of which is a confirmed PCR test, the second is a positive Lateral Flow Test having used a Home Testing Kit and is awaiting the result of a PCR test. These two pupils are not in the same friendship group or in the same classes

Three cases in Year 11; one of whom was negative on a Lateral Flow Test but had a PCR test three days later due to a parent in the same household having a positive result on a Lateral Flow Test; one pupil woke up with a headache and high temperature and has tested positive on a PCR; the third pupil has tested positive on a Lateral Flow Test and is awaiting a PCR test. Two of the pupils sit in proximity to each other in the same Form Class

One case in Sixth Form; this was a positive Lateral Flow Test that is now confirmed as a positive by PCR test

In all cases we have notified Bradford Local Authority and taken advice from Public Health England as necessary. We continue to follow our established protocol in response to positive cases which, based on advice from Public Health England, is to identify social contacts and pupils who have been in proximity, and for them to be at home and self-isolate for a period of ten days. If, following a positive Lateral Flow Test a subsequent PCR test is negative then self-isolation ends. However, any contacts of someone who has tested positive by PCR test, completes their own Lateral Flow test that is negative, is not allowed to come out of self-isolation as the virus could develop at any point over the ten-day period.

I appreciate the inconvenience this may cause to pupils who have been identified as being a member of a friendship group or in proximity, for them to self-isolate for a ten-day period, but it is a stark reminder that COVID-19 is in the community and is transmissible. We continue to follow all established protocols of wearing facemasks on corridors and in classrooms, regular hand sanitisation and maintaining social distance where possible. A review of each case shows they are isolated cases apart from the two pupils in Year 8 who are the same friendship group.

**It is important that our children continue to be aware of and practise the safety measures by maintaining social distance, wearing facemasks not just in school but when out in the community and to not gather in groups. It is important to remember that having a negative test result from a Lateral Flow Test does not mean that all the safety measures in dealing with COVID-19 can be ignored.**

### Start of the summer term

Summer term begins Monday 12 April 2021 with a return to the timetable we established for school reopening September 2020:

|           | Arrival time | Form time | F1<br>30 minutes in total:<br>45 minutes plus 15 minutes washing and movement |               |               |               | F2<br>75 minutes in total:<br>45 minutes plus 15 minutes break and 15 minutes washing and movement |                         |               |               | F3<br>60 minutes |               | F4<br>90 minutes - staggered lunch for year groups |        |        | F5<br>30 minutes in total:<br>45 minutes plus 15 minutes washing and movement |        | Staggered dismissal | Extra-curricular |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--|--------|--------|---|--------|---------------------|------------------|
|           |              |           | 9.05 - 10.05  | 10.05 - 10.20 | 10.20 - 10.35 | 10.35 - 10.50 | 10.50 - 11.05  | 11.05 - 11.30           | 11.30 - 12.30 | 12.30 - 12.50 | 12.50 - 13.30    | 13.30 - 13.50 | 13.50 - 14.50                                      |        |        |   |        |                     |                  |
| Y7        | 8.30         | FT        | Lesson  | Lesson        | Break (B)     | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lunch (C)               | Lesson        | Lesson        | Lesson           | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson  | Lesson | 14.30               |                  |
| Y8        | 8.45         | FT        | Lesson  | Lesson        | Break (C)     | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lunch (B)               | Lesson        | Lesson        | Lesson           | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson  | Lesson | 14.55               |                  |
| Y9        | 8.40         | FT        | Lesson  | Break (B)     | Lesson        | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson                  | Lunch (C)     | Lesson        | Lesson           | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson  | Lesson | 15.00               |                  |
| Y10       | 8.35         | FT        | Lesson  | Lesson        | Break (C)     | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson                  | Lesson        | Lunch (C)     | Lesson           | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson  | Lesson | 15.25               |                  |
| Y11       | 8.30         | FT        | Lesson  | Lesson        | Break (B)     | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson                  | Lesson        | Lunch (B)     | Lesson           | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson  | Lesson | 15.10               |                  |
| Y 12 & 13 | 8.25         | FT        | Lesson  | Lesson        | Break         | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson (lunch off site) | Lesson        | Lesson        | Lesson           | Lesson        | Lesson   | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson  | Lesson | 14.45               |                  |

Lunch social areas: Year 7 Lower MUGA, Year 8 Outside Café Beans, Year 9 Outside Café Cosmo, Year 10 Lower MUGA, Year 11 Outside Café Beans  
Lunch time toilet facilities: Year 7 English & Technology, Year 8 Main toilet block, Year 9 Main toilet block, Year 10 MPL, CBEM & Technology, Year 11 Main toilet block

C= Café Cosmopolitan B= Café Beans

### Travel to and from school

I wish to thank you for your continued support of our staggered starts and ends to the school day and appreciate this may continue to cause inconvenience, but it is a necessary part of our implementation of safety measures. I wish to also remind parents/carers of the need to reinforce the message that children should wear facemasks on public transport and not gather in groups on the way to school or on the way home; we have received a number of messages of concern from other parents/carers and members of the public that a small number of our children have been gathering in groups in Roberts Park before and after school. Your support in helping us to reinforce this message of safety is much appreciated.

## Uniform

As part of the information sent to parents/carers regarding the return to school the options for uniform were explained. It is the case that these options will remain in place for the summer term:

Option 1. Pupils to return to school in full school winter uniform i.e. black shoes, black trousers, white shirt, year group tie, dark blue V-neck jumper and outdoor coat

Option 2. Pupils to return to school in full school summer uniform i.e. black shoes, black trousers, dark blue polo shirt with no base layers and outdoor coat if needed

As before, pupils can come into school wearing PE Kit with base layers if required on days when they have timetabled PE lessons

**There is no expectation this year that pupils wear the summer uniform i.e. blue polo shirt;** as the weather improves and we have hotter days, pupils will be allowed to come to school in their white school shirt and no jumper.

The wearing of the year group lanyard is an expected part of school uniform and clearly shows which year group a child is a member of.

Any family having difficulty with uniform should contact their respective Year Team and discuss concerns

## Next term

Currently, we do not have any updates from the Department for Education (DfE) and therefore expect to open next term as outlined in this letter. I am unsure that the "strong recommendation" to wear facemasks will be removed from the guidance or whether other measures will be in place.

Although we do not intend to have mass testing, we will retain the AST but with limited staff – this in the first instance will be to provide on-the-day testing for those members of staff returning to school having been shielding and for any instance it may be required. I anticipate that Home Testing will continue well into the summer term as the Roadmap outlined by Government progresses.

Our focus next term will be on providing support for pupils in Year 11 and students in Year 13 to take assessments in school as evidence for their GCSE, BTEC, Vocational and A Level grades. In addition, we have recruited two Progress Behaviour Mentors who are Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTA) as part of the individualised programme to support pupils to accelerate their progress, manage their workload and aim to improve their outcomes. We intend to recruit for two more of these posts as part of the national programme of support with reengaging in learning.

As we all know, it has been a very challenging and demanding twelve months and this recent reopening including mass testing has been particularly challenging. I make no apology for once again thanking all of our members of staff for their hard work and dedication; thanking you for your continued support and understanding; to our children for making us proud and dealing with everything they have had to, regarding school closure, home schooling, no socialising, interrupted education, wearing facemasks, taking Lateral Flow Tests and self-isolation. We are living in a very different world than the one we were all used to, but we continue to achieve so much.

I wish you all a good holiday break.

Yours sincerely



**Ian Morrel**  
**Headteacher**