



Introduction

The following information is taken from the Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance February 2021, Department for Education (DfE). The link below opens to a set of three documents and it is the guidance after 8 March that when accessed goes to a pdf download:

[Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)

Much of the guidance is the same as previous iterations of guidance from the DfE but there are some significant changes especially regarding the use of Lateral Flow Tests.

The clear message given at the Press Briefing given by the Prime Minister on Monday 22 February 2021 was that all secondary schools and FE colleges will reopen to all pupils and students on 8 March 2021. However, the section on Asymptomatic testing, page 29 is implicitly contradictory to the section on Attendance, page 32.

The advice on page 30 – Secondary school testing on-site through Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) states:

“Secondary schools should offer pupils testing at an on-site ATS from 8 March. Testing and return of pupils can be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. You should offer 3 tests, 3 to 5 days apart.

You have the flexibility to consider how best to deliver testing on a phased basis from 8 March, depending on your circumstances and local arrangements, but you should prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and year groups 10 to 13.

Pupils should return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with your phased return arrangements. Schools will have discretion on how to test students over that week as they return to the classroom.

Testing is voluntary. If consent is provided, pupils will be asked to self-swab at the on-site ATS and after 30 minutes they should be informed of their results.”

The table on the following page is an illustration of the schedule for the phased return to school by year group. Please note the typing error on the original has been corrected to show the finish time for Year 9 on Friday 12 March 2021 is 14.50 and not 15.50

Reopening linked to Lateral Flow Tests

Following the Government guidance, we will be reopening school on the following basis:

| | Lateral Flow Test Schedule | | Phased reopening |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| | 9.30 to 11.30 | 12.30 to 2.30 | Year groups in school |
| Monday 8 March | Year 11 | Years 12 & 13 | Year 11 from 9.15am to 14.50 Years 12 & 13 from 12.30pm |
| Tuesday 9 March | Year 10 | | Year 10 - 9.15am to 14.50 Year 11 - 8.30am to 3.00pm Years 12 and 13 as timetable |
| Wednesday 10 March | Year 7 | | Year 7 - 9.15am to 14.50 Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 as timetable |
| Thursday 11 March | Year 8 | Year 11 | Year 8 - 9.15am to 14.55 Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as timetable |
| Friday 12 March | Year 9 | Years 12 & 13 | Year 9 - 9.15am to 14.50 Years 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as timetable |

| | Lateral Flow Test Schedule | | Year groups in school all day as usual timetable |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--|
| | Morning | afternoon | |
| Monday 15 March | Year 10 | Year 8 | All |
| Tuesday 16 March | Year 7 | | All |
| Wednesday 17 March | Year 9 | Year 11 | All |
| Thursday 18 March | | Years 12 & 13 | All |
| Friday 19 March | Year 10 | Year 8 | All |

| | Lateral Flow Test Schedule | | Year groups in school all day as usual timetable |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| | morning | afternoon | |
| Monday 22 March | Year 7 | Year 9 | All |
| Tuesday 23 March | | | All |
| Wednesday 24 March | | | All |
| Thursday 25 March | | | All |
| Friday 26 March | | | All |



Reopening from 8 March 2021

School has remained open during the third national lockdown and on average, one hundred and fifty pupils who are vulnerable and children of critical workers have attended on a regular basis, each day, since 4 January 2021.

The implementation of safety measures has remained in place since the full reopening of schools in September 2020 and includes hand washing/sanitisation, wearing facemasks, two-metre social distancing where possible, ventilation of rooms and the creation of year group "bubbles".

The week commencing 8 March 2021 will be a logistical challenge and be a very different experience in school than has been at other times due to the requirement for asymptomatic testing of pupils.

The requirement is for those who have given consent, a Lateral Flow Test should be completed before children can return to face-to-face lessons. This means that children cannot return to lessons until all tests has been completed. This will require all pupils who have given consent to be tested and for all results to be recorded before any child in the same year group can return to face-to-face teaching. Any child who has not given consent, will have to wait until all pupils who have given consent, are tested before they too can return to face-to-face teaching.

On each designated day for return to school, pupils are to go to the same Form Class they were in last term where they will be registered and be involved in a series of Wellbeing lessons during the time it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests for their year group. From the programme completed with vulnerable and children of critical workers we anticipate it will take two to three hours to test between one hundred and fifty to two hundred children.

Any child who tests positive from the Lateral Flow Test will be required to go home and book a PCR Test; if the result of the PCR test is also positive then they and their household will need to self-isolate for a period of ten days. If the PCR test is negative, then they can return to school and no one in the household need self-isolate.

A total of one hundred and thirteen Lateral Flow Tests have been completed on children in school and all have tested negative

Home testing

In addition to Asymptomatic Testing in school, Home Testing is a requirement of the wider reopening of schools. The guidance, on page 30, states:

"Both pupils and staff in secondary schools will be supplied with LFD test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Staff and pupils must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit."

Although not made explicit, it is assumed that Home Testing will take place following the three tests administered through the ATS at school.

Included in this section of Home Testing the advice states on page 31, that:

"Staff or pupils with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result if the test was done at home."

The Department for Education (DfE), have today asked that we let parents and carers know about the national school for issuing Lateral Flow Test kits:

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)



Remote Learning and face-to-face lessons

The usual timetabled lessons will be suspended for the time it takes to complete testing, for the year group returning to school based on the schedule on the previous page. For example, there will be no timetabled lessons for Year 11 for periods one and two on Monday 8 March 2021; there will be no timetabled lessons for Sixth Form all day on Monday 8 March 2021.

Remote Learning is to continue during the week commencing 8 March 2021 but on a different basis than has been the case before for the following reasons. As individual year groups return to school, they will spend the period it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests with their Form Tutor. If, for example, a Year 11 Form Tutor has a Year 7 lesson period 2 on Monday 8 March 2021 then this lesson should be an uploaded lesson and not a real-time or live lesson. From period 3 onwards, it is anticipated that members of staff in school will deliver face-to-face lessons to Year 11 pupils.

On Tuesday 9 March 2021, members of staff who are Year 10 Form Tutors, will be with their Form Class for the time it takes to complete Lateral Flow Tests. The usual Year 10 lessons on Tuesday 9 March 2021 will be suspended for the period it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests. Year 11 pupils and Sixth Form students will return to their usual timetabled lessons in school. However, if their usual teacher is a Year 10 Form Tutor, then their lesson will be covered by another teacher.

On Wednesday 10 March 2021, members of staff who are Year 7 Form Tutors, will be with their Form Class for the time it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests. The usual Year 7 lessons on Wednesday 10 March 2021 will be suspended for the period it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 along with students in Sixth Form will be in their usual timetabled lessons in school. However, if their usual teacher is a Year 7 Form Tutor, then their lesson will be covered by another teacher.

On Thursday 11 March 2021, members of staff who are Year 8 Form Tutors, will be with their Form Class for the time it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests. The usual Year 8 lessons on Thursday 11 March 2021 will be suspended for the period it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests. Pupils in Years 7, 10 and 11 along with students in Sixth Form will be in their usual timetabled lessons in school. However, if their usual teacher is a Year 8 Form Tutor, then their lesson will be covered by another teacher.

On Friday 12 March 2021, members of staff who are Year 9 Form Tutors, will be with their Form Class for the time it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests. The usual Year 9 lessons on Friday 12 March 2021 will be suspended for the period it takes to complete the Lateral Flow Tests. Pupils in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 along with students in Sixth Form will be in their usual timetabled lessons in school. However, if their usual teacher is a Year 9 Form Tutor, then their lesson will be covered by another teacher.

The organisation of the Lateral Flow Test schedule is Form Class order Registration Group 1 to Registration Group 9. Therefore, when the second Lateral Flow Test is scheduled, pupils will be in their usual timetabled lessons and will be required to leave their lesson according the schedule in form class order. There is a large team of members of staff with a range of roles who will oversee the organisation of the Lateral Flow Test procedure.



Expectations

Families have faced many challenges through the series of national lockdowns which as a school we need to be sensitive, but it is important that we are clear about our standards and expectations for returning to usual school routines as soon as possible.

Uniform

As each year group returns to school, we expect them to be in their usual school uniform as stated in the Pupil Planner and on the school website. We have agreed the following as part of the return to school:

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
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
3. Pupils to 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

Those pupils who are vulnerable and children of critical workers who have been in school during this national lockdown are permitted to wear non-uniform on the days they are in school except when they return alongside the rest of their year group in full school uniform.

Hair colour and piercings

It is expected that pupils return to school in accordance with the standards and expectations we have always maintained and as set out in the Pupil Planner. Anyone who has dyed their hair or had a hair cut that is extreme should attempt to rectify this by the date their year group is to return to school.

As businesses who do piercings have not been allowed to be open during the national lockdown, we do not expect that pupils have had facial piercings. For those who have previously had facial piercings, we expect all piercings are removed on return to school.

Face masks

Face masks have become a part of school uniform and is therefore an expectation to be worn on arrival at school, whilst on corridors and in the classroom. The Guidance has a change to previous guidance on the wearing of face masks and now includes the following statement – "that face coverings should be worn in classrooms".

I appreciate that this may cause concern and we are currently reviewing ways that we can provide children with a break between some lessons to go outside for a short period of time to enable them to take off their mask and be in fresh air outdoors. This will be in addition to their staggered break time and lunch time.



Positive Behaviour Strategy and routines

Our Positive Behaviour Strategy has been in place for many years and it is a successful strategy in establishing routines and creating consistency. In response to reopening, it is important that we remind ourselves of what our PBS is, knowing that is effective

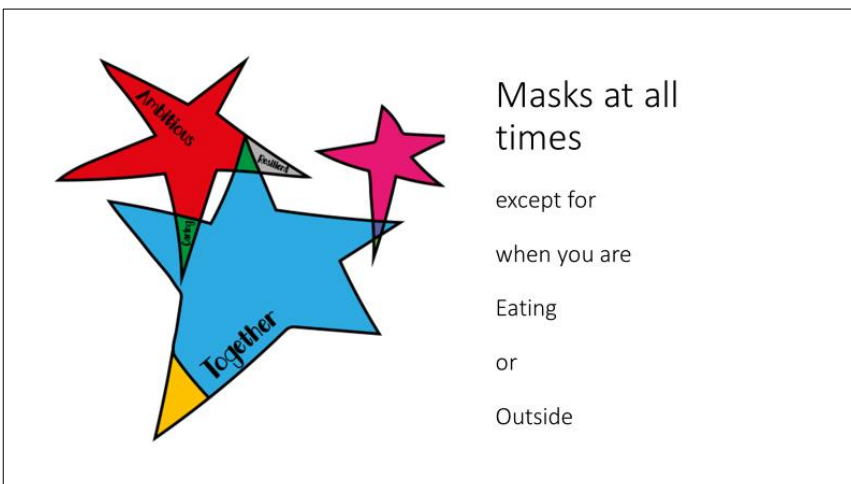
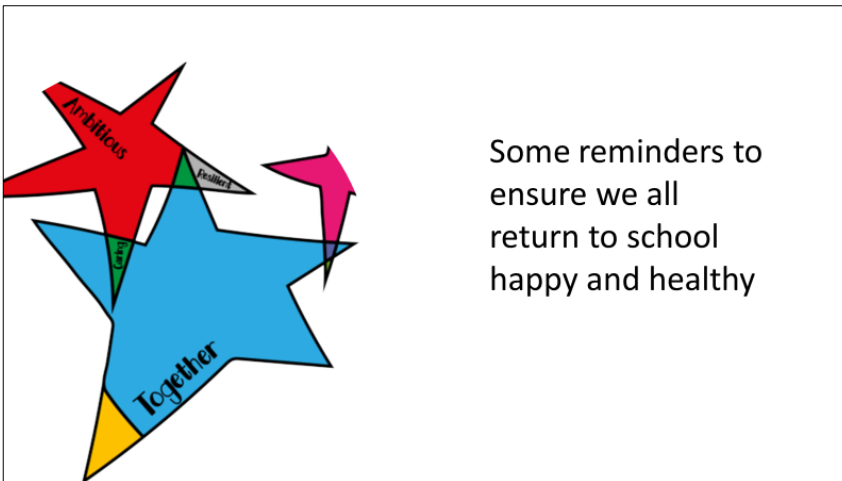
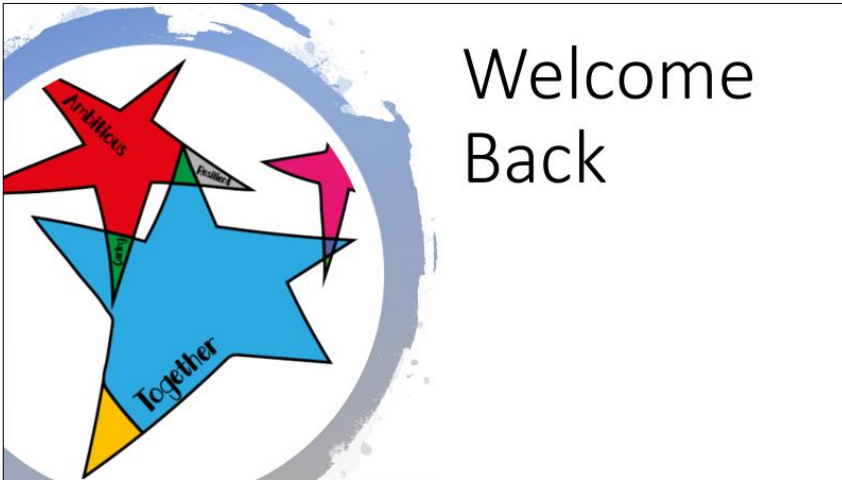
A PowerPoint has been produced and is to be shown to all pupils by their Form Tutor on their return to school – it is to be the first PowerPoint to be shown to pupils as they are in their Form Class during the period whilst Lateral Flow Tests are taking place


Some key messages we must share:

- To ensure we are all compassionate towards our pupils and colleagues
- Kind eyes with everyone!
- Routines are in place outside the classroom - queuing outside their classroom, so pupils are waiting for their teacher to arrive
- Routines are in place inside the classroom - masks on, correct seat, coats off, planners out and equipment placed on the table
- If there is a need for a faculty removal or On Call – this needs to happen by contacting the Year Base in the faculty pod
- Looking for opportunities to reward, stamp and celebrate achievement

The focus must be on establishing routines – so our pupils are ready to learn

We all need to ensure that this is done in a nurturing supportive way






Keep your distance from everyone that is not a member of your year group (2 metres).


Wash and/or use anti-bacterial wash on your hands when entering and leaving a lesson/form time.

When you enter your Year Group Teaching Pod:

- Follow the one way system
- Queue quietly outside your classroom
- Only go in a classroom when a teacher is present



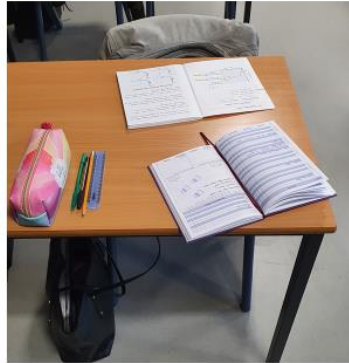
Every lesson should start in the same way.....





Classroom Basics Thank you for....

- Keeping your face mask on at all times inside
(new government directive)
- Sitting in your correct seat
- Taking your coat off and putting it on the back of the chair
- Ensuring your planner is out and open on your desk
- Ensuring your pen, green pen, pencil and ruler are out
- Putting your bag on the floor
- Checking you are ready to learn




Toilets


Toilets need to be used outside lesson time
i.e. Break/Lunchtime.

Only pupils with a toilet pass/
official note will be allowed to
use the toilet(s) during lesson
time.





Breaktime
Break time will continue in the usual areas.



Lunchtimes
continue as usual

When playing

Thank you for ensuring that;

- You do not touch another pupil – includes grabbing them /play fighting etc
- You do not stand on any of the walls or benches
- You ensure you have your mask on before you queue up to leave the outside play area
- You queue quietly and do not push others when leaving the outside play area



When going home at the end of the day.....

Pupils should wear masks on buses and trains.

Remember to social distance and avoid walking home in large groups.



THANK YOU

For making sure you help to keep us all safe, healthy and happy at school.