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Dear parent/carer

Re: Re-opening arrangements

As we come to the end of the school summer break, I am writing to keep you updated on the plans for re-opening our school this week.

Thankfully our school will reopen to students planned and will follow the specific arrangements previously sent regarding different year groups. Furthermore, following the publication of updated government guidance we will now try to return our schools to a state of relative normality for pupils and staff.

Clearly some sensible measures such additional cleaning of our school; increased expectation and vigilance around hygiene, as well as greater ventilation will remain.

It is no longer required to keep students in strict year group bubbles, and we will hopefully, see an end to large groups of pupils being asked to isolate as a 'close contact'. However, we are continuing with the staggered start to the school day, and designated areas at break and lunch for different year groups as this has proven to have a very positive effect on engagement in learning and the calmness of the school day.

Below we have tried to address some questions we feel you may ask:

Will school be returning to 'normal'?

In short, yes. The vast majority of activities, sports, clubs, and routines will be returning. However, as you might expect, we are still very mindful of the risk Covid could pose so some mitigations and adjustments will remain.

Will my child have to isolate if there is a case in his/her class?

No. It looks highly unlikely that pupils will need to routinely self-isolate. However, if contacted and advised by Test & Trace to isolate we would recommend that you follow their guidance. Additionally, we may need to contact you if your child's class/setting experiences multiple cases.

Will you be contacting me if there is a case in my child's class?

We still think that it is important for you to be aware of cases in your child's class/ year group. Therefore, we will regularly communicate the very broad details of any positive cases within any group, but this will be for information only.

What will happen if there are multiple cases at my child's school?

We will continue to monitor all positive cases. When our threshold is met, which is 5 linked cases within a broad group or 10% of pupils across a class/setting we may be required to implement additional measures, in consultation with the Local Health Team (as per government guidance). It is at this point where we may need to consider any self-isolation, remote learning, or the reinstatement of measures such as face coverings. This will only be done as a last resort, and we will keep you informed throughout.

What happens if my child develops symptoms?

If your child develops symptoms, we would ask you to take your child for a PCR test.

My child has Covid 19 symptoms but has tested negative?

If following a negative PCR test your child is well enough for school, they can return. However, if the symptoms persist (such as an ongoing cough) or they are generally unwell we will ask you to keep your child at home until their symptoms and/or illness are gone.

Do I need to keep testing my child?

Yes – in line with the government guidance and relative to their age. We would ask that all secondary students complete a Lateral Flow Test twice each week.

Hopefully that covers some key areas. We will provide further details if there is change to guidance or circumstances.

I hope you and your child have a safe and successful start to the Term.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Marston
Headteacher

