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Dear Parent/Carer

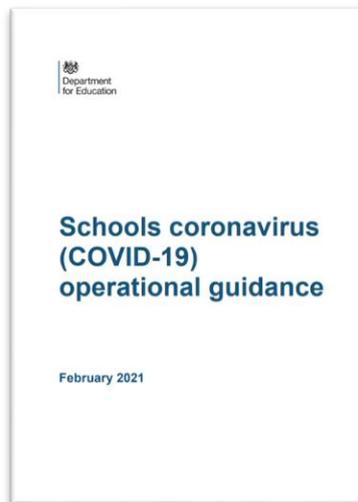
This might change.....

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced his “roadmap” out of lockdown. In the first phase we see the return of all students to schools **from** Monday 8 March 2021.

There will be a range of personal responses to this plan. We all want our children back in school, but we also want to see an end to suffering and deaths. I find it difficult to comprehend the full impact of over 120,000 deaths so far.

Throughout the pandemic we have made the safety of all members of our community as our priority. This has not changed.

The Department for Education has provided operational guidance:



Within this guidance it is clear that Secondary schools should offer students testing before they return to the classroom:

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*Our school is an inclusive place of learning that celebrates and welcomes diversity. Every member of our community is a unique and special creation of God and is known, cared for and valued for the contribution they make. Every student is challenged and supported to achieve his best.*



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**Secondary school testing on-site through an Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS)**

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.

We will be inviting all students back into school during the week starting Monday 8 March 2021. Testing reduces the risk of Covid 19 transmission. I am sure you will understand that it is simply not possible to test every student before 8:30 am on the Monday morning!

Yr 11 will be the first year-group back in school on Monday 8 March with the other years joining throughout the week. We also need have to plan for second tests before the end of the first week for at least two year-groups.

After the initial three tests your son can be tested at home with you reporting the results to NHS Track & Trace and to the school. - further details to follow.

The new algorithm to identify people at risk means that we have at least 20% of our staff unable to work in school until April. This is not their fault but it does provide us with a challenge.

You will have many questions...at this time so do I!

You will shortly be receiving a request to give your authorisation for your son to be shown how to self-test and be tested in school and as soon as I can share more detailed information I will.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Fisher  
Head Teacher