

Oakbank School



23rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following yesterday's announcements of school re-openings I would like to share our plans for the return to Oakbank on the week beginning Monday 8th March.

In order to guarantee the safest possible return, and to ensure the welfare of all staff and students, we will be following the government guidance for school return that can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Lateral Flow Tests and a Phased Return

Our first challenge will be to provide all students with Lateral Flow Tests (LFT). Overall each student will need to take 3 LFTs at school and will be able to return to in school lessons following their first negative test result. We have the capacity to test 2 year groups on one day so it will take 3 days before the first batch of testing is completed. This means the return to in-school lessons will be phased across the week and will look like this:

	Mon 08/03/21	Tue 09/03/21	Wed 10/03/21	Thu 11/03/21	Fri 12/03/21	Mon 15/03/21	Tue 16/03/21	Wed 17/03/21	
1 st LFT	Y11, Y10	Y9, Y7	Y8						
Back to School		Y11, Y10	Y9, Y7	Y8					
2 nd LFT				Y11, Y10	Y9, Y7	Y8			
3 rd LFT						Y11	Y10, Y9	Y7	Y8

	1 st LTF	Back to School	2 nd LTF	3 rd LTF
Year 11	Mon 08/03	Tue 09/03	Thu 11/03	Mon 15/03
Year 10	Mon 08/03	Tue 09/03	Thu 11/03	Tue 16/03
Year 9	Tue 09/03	Wed 10/03	Fri 12/03	Tue 16/03
Year 8	Wed 10/03	Thu 11/03	Mon 15/03	Wed 17/03
Year 7	Tue 09/03	Wed 10/03	Fri 12/03	Wed 17/03

There needs to be 3 - 5 days between each test and, following the 3 in-school tests, home testing kits will be distributed and regular testing will become a parental responsibility. More information regarding this process will follow nearer the time.

We will require consent for LTFs and you will be sent a form to complete to provide this. The tests are not compulsory but we strongly recommend that every student takes them. We require every student to have a completed consent form, even if it is to say that consent is not given. There will be no academic advantage or disadvantage to any student whether they take the test or not. If consent is not provided students return on the same day as all other students of their year group.

If a student has symptoms, or has tested positive with a LFT, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days. If a student is in close contact with anybody who receives a positive test (LFT or PCR) they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Student Group (KWV)

If your child has been coming into school as a member of the KWV group they will continue to do so until their year group is phased back into school, they will join their regular classes. They will follow the same testing timings as the rest of their year group.

A Safe Return to School

When students return they will be in the same year group bubbles they became familiar with in the Autumn term. We hope to keep any changes to the timetable to a minimum and will send out information regarding the timetable once we have finalised the details.

The expectations regarding handwashing and maintaining social distancing will be the same as they were in the Autumn term.

Wearing of Masks

One significant change is that all staff and students will be expected to wear masks whenever they are indoors. This means that masks will be worn in classrooms, during lessons. I am aware that some students have exemptions from wearing masks on health grounds, can you please ensure your child's head of year is aware of these exemptions.

School Dinners

The canteen will provide a full service from Tuesday 9th March and, once they return to school all students eligible for free school meals will, once again, receive these meals through the canteen.

Thank you

We will be sending out more detailed information in the coming days, but if you have any further questions please let me know. In the meantime, I would like to thank you for all you have done to support your children and Oakbank through this challenging time, I am truly proud of all that has been achieved by every member of the Oakbank family during the lockdown!

Kind regards

Robin Bertrand