



MILLOM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr M D Savidge

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26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

On Monday 22 February the prime minister announced that schools should begin to reopen to all students from Monday 8th March. As part of this reopening, the government have tasked schools with offering 3 Lateral Flow Tests to all students in order to identify any asymptomatic cases of Covid 19. The purpose of these tests is to protect the school and the wider community from the potential for Covid 19 to spread through asymptomatic infection. This means that there will be a phased reopening of school during that week so that the testing can take place.

We are planning the first two weeks as follows:

Monday 8 March 2021 and Tuesday 9 March 2021	Testing for students through appointment (First test). Remote learning continues. Students do not need to wear uniform
Wednesday 10 th March to Friday 12 March	All students return to school. Second tests take place with students withdrawn from lessons for their test. Students do need to wear full uniform
Monday 15 March to Wednesday 17 March	All students in school. Third tests take place with students withdrawn from lessons for their test. Students do need to wear full uniform

Students who are 11 years old are not allowed to administer the test themselves and would need to be accompanied by a parent/carer who would do this for them.

Testing on Monday 8 March and Tuesday 9 March will be organised in the same way as it was on 4 January with students being given an appointment time to attend school for their test. Following their test they will need to return home. All learning on those two days will be done remotely as it has been during lockdown. School transport will not be operating on Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 March to remove the risk of transmission.

Staff supporting students with the lateral flow tests have continued to test staff and students in school throughout lockdown and are supporting the community testing taking place on the school site.

From Wednesday 10 March students return to school as normal with face to face teaching taking place from this date. Students will then be withdrawn from lessons to have their second and third tests.

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Having the lateral flow tests is voluntary but the government are strongly recommending that students take part in order to support the roadmap out of lockdown. Please follow the link below if you would like to give consent for your child to be tested. The deadline for this consent is 9.15 am on Tuesday 9 March 2021.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ttrLFDKhqES7gSKQr-iJOCHq-vIPS4FPmtXf7wONhy1UQURUTVdLVldZOEpxM081VVhNOEpaWDVKTy4u>

The government have announced that all testing after that will be done at home twice per week with students being given test kits via school. I understand that this may cause some anxiety for parents but by this point students will have had at least three tests in school and so will have had three opportunities to swab themselves. We will give you more information about this once we have it, including any guidance we receive about how to conduct these tests. School staff will also be testing themselves in this way from 8 March.

The government have also announced that face coverings should be worn by everybody whilst inside the school building, including in classrooms. This will be in place until at least the Easter holiday. We are recommending therefore that students bring more than one mask into school where possible, so that they can change their mask during break times should they need to. The students who were exempt from wearing face coverings in November and December can attend school without having to wear a mask. We would like to remind students that they should sanitize their hands before putting the mask on, and after taking it off, and that they should bring a small plastic bag to keep their mask in once it has been removed.

All the procedures that were in place during last term to help to keep everyone in school safe will be in place. This includes the one-way system, more double lessons to reduce movement around school, year specific areas at break times, specific times for year groups to access the refectories, hand sanitizer and wiping desks and chairs in classrooms. It is vital that students continue to follow these procedures on their return.

I would like to remind you that your child must not attend school if they have one of the 3 coronavirus symptoms. These are:

- High temperature
- New continuous cough
- Change to/loss of sense of taste or smell

If they develop these symptoms whilst in school then we will follow the same procedure that we did last term and contact home for you to collect your child from school.

All of these approaches are designed to keep everyone in school and in the wider community as safe as possible.

We are looking forward to our students returning to school and returning to something more like normal life.

Yours faithfully



M D Savidge
Headteacher