



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Ms E Ellis BA, MA

24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this week's Wednesday update. As I said in my letter yesterday, there is a lot of important information to share with you now that we have more clarity about returning to school. I will cover our plans for mass testing of students, the actual return to school and some practicalities around that, as well as giving more information about the remote learning arrangements for next week.

Mass testing of all students

As per my previous letter, we are required to carry out Covid-19 lateral flow tests on every student three times before they return to school. We have arranged for this to take place this **Friday, 26th February, next Tuesday, 2nd March, and next Friday, 5th March**. You will shortly receive an email confirming the time your child needs to attend school to take the test. It will be the same time on all three days. Students should come to the sports hall entrance of the school, where they will be supervised and supported through the process. The actual testing takes around five minutes, and students should leave the site as soon as their test is done. They do not need to wear uniform, but they do need to have a mask to wear while they are inside the building. We can supply a mask if necessary. Siblings are welcome to attend for their tests together if that is easier for you to manage, but please let us know if that is the case so that we can have their registration cards ready and save time.

To clarify some other points:

- Testing is not compulsory and no student will be forced to take a test; however, I am sure you appreciate that it helps keep everyone safe if they do.
- If your child has had Covid-19 within the last 90 days, they do not need to take a test as it is likely to show as positive. Please let us know if you have not already done so if that is the case.
- If you are a key worker and your child is in school during this period, he/she will still take the tests along with his/her classmates.

Remote learning during the week beginning 1st March

During this week, there will be no live lessons on Google Classroom. Teachers will set resource-based learning activities on Monday and Wednesday, whilst on testing days, i.e. Friday 26th Feb, Tuesday 2nd and Friday 5th March, a special programme of transition activities has been put together. These are designed to help students prepare for the return to school, with a focus on preparation, routines, physical and mental wellbeing. Form tutors will issue the tasks to students on each of the mornings. Thursday 4th March is World Book Day, and the English department is preparing a special programme of activities for KS3 students on that day. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will have resource-based lessons as usual. To confirm, the programme is below:

Friday 26th February **Testing day, transition activities set by form tutors**

Monday 1st March **Resource-based learning set by teachers**

Tuesday 2nd March **Testing day, transition activities set by form tutors**

Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 4BA

Telephone: 01462 621200 – Email: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk – Website: www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

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Wednesday 3rd March Resource-based learning set by teachers

Thursday 4th March World Book Day activities for KS3 all day, resource-based learning for KS4 and sixth form

Friday 5th March Testing day, transition activities set by form tutors

Provision on site for the children of key workers and vulnerable learners will continue as usual during this week; they will engage with the different activities each day.

Week beginning Monday 8th March – Back to School

On **Monday 8th March, Years 7, 11, 12 and 13** will return to school at the usual time of 8.30am. They will have a series of induction activities on the day to help them settle back to school routine. On **Tuesday 9th March, Years 8, 9 and 10 will return, so that the whole school is back on the site.** We will be following all safety guidelines regarding movement around the building; I will share the arrangements in more detail next week. Key points to note for this 'Back to School' week:

- Students are expected to wear full school uniform. If a student has PE, they should wear PE kit on that day as changing rooms are not yet open.
- Students need to wear masks at all times while they are moving around the school and usually in classrooms. If a student cannot wear a mask for any reason, please let us know so that we can arrange for a lanyard to be provided. This will avoid sanctions being issued unfairly.
- We are not yet providing lockers for students for safety reasons, so students need to bring their books and equipment for the day in a sensible bag. Teachers have students' books here on site for some subjects, but if you have them at home, please bring them in with you on the day you have that lesson.
- If you have borrowed a laptop or Chromebook, please bring it in with you and drop it at reception where it can be signed off.
- If you are a key worker with a child in Years 8, 9 or 10 and you need provision for Monday 8th March, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can plan for you.

Year 10 parents' evening is going ahead on Tuesday 9th March from 4.30pm, via our video system. Please ensure you have made your appointments.

I understand there may be questions and we will share final details with you next week. In the meantime, please ensure you have given your consent for the testing process via this link if you have not already done so <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IYiHZD7OPVtEiD48KOdgXpV6SA5nc5zWJ90-1FLDYn0/edit>

Thank you for your patience and support and we look forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Yours faithfully

Ms E Ellis
Headteacher

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