



25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Wider re-opening of St James' March 2021

Further to my letter dated 23rd February, I am now able to share with you more information about the full re-opening of St James' from 8th March. The health, safety and wellbeing of our children and staff is our number one priority and we have therefore put many measures in place to ensure the safety of all. Following the Department for Education (DfE) guidance we are continuing to operate a system of 'Year group bubbles' meaning that mixing **between** Year groups will be avoided whilst children are in school. I have outlined several key points relating to our return and I hope this will address any questions or concerns you may have.

Staggered Return

As per the DfE guidance, children will return to school from the 8th March in line with the dates below:

Monday 8th March	Year 11
Tuesday 9th March	Year 10
Wednesday 10th March	Year 9
Thursday 11th March	Year 8
Friday 12th March	Year 7

All children who are vulnerable and/or children of critical workers **who have already been attending school since January** will be able to continue to do so. Children who are not in school, as their Year group has not returned, will continue to receive Zoom lessons at home following their normal school timetable.

Following the announcement from Mr Johnson on 22nd February regarding the wider reopening of schools from March 8th, we have established a testing facility which is capable of testing each child three times upon their return to school. The staggered return will allow us to test each child before they return to the classroom thus reducing any asymptomatic transmission. Any child who has consent for a test to be carried out will need to produce a negative result before returning to lessons. It is therefore imperative that you have completed one of the links below as per my previous letter:

Either a) give consent for your child(ren) to be tested or b) confirm that you do not give consent for your child(ren) to be tested. **You must respond to one of the links.**

If you **would** like your child to take part in the testing programme, **please complete the link here.** We will require one completed link per child:

<https://forms.gle/YkG8U1ovLjgZHFIA7>

If you **do not** wish your child to take part in the programme, **please complete the non-consent link here:**

<https://forms.gle/dHHDKzkidVqZJQrR6>

The deadline for completing the forms is 3pm on Monday 1st March 2021. If we do not receive your completed link by this date your child will not be able to participate in the testing programme. If you have any



questions at this stage around testing please do not hesitate to contact our testing lead, and School Business Manager, Mrs Doherty at j.doherty@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Examinations

Unfortunately, there has still been no further clarity around the Year 11 examinations other than the guidance stating, "further detail will be published shortly, now that the consultation on this has closed", as soon as we receive any clarity I shall be in touch. From what I have read in the Educational press more information should be released today, Thursday 24th February.

Testing

- All children (who have consent) will be tested as they return to school
- As the children return to school for the first time they will be directed to the Sports Hall/Main Hall to sit socially distanced
- The children will have their test and wait for the result
- If the result returns a negative, they will return to lessons, if it is positive, they will need to be collected by parents
- The children are required to have three tests
- Tests two and three will commence the week beginning 15th March, children will be extracted from lessons to take the test. If a child returns a positive test, they will need to be collected by parents
- After the third test the children will be provided with tests to carry out at home in the future weeks and more information will be provided in the coming weeks
- General information about Lateral Flow Testing can be found at the end of this letter

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are now mandatory in classrooms, corridors and communal areas for children and staff
- Face coverings do not need to be worn outside, except in the lunch queue, or when taking part in PE lessons
- Exemptions: some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. It applies to:
 - those that cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical, impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties
 - those that speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate
- If you feel your child is exempt from wearing a face covering please email our pastoral manager Mrs Chadwick c.chadwick@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Attendance

- School attendance is mandatory for all children
- The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:
 - parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school
 - the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct
- A small number of children will still be unable to attend because they:
 - Have symptoms or have had a positive test result



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- Live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- Are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Have been asked to shield (parents will need to provide a copy of the shielding letter sent to CEV children, to confirm that they are advised not to attend school or other educational settings whilst shielding guidance is in place)

Confirmed cases

- Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the school will be managed in line with current Public Health guidance. This means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 10 days by the school (based on advice from the local health protection teams) if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus

Contingency Plan

- In the event that a child needs to isolate, as they or a member of their household has symptoms of Covid-19, or they or a member of their household has tested positive, they will be able to login to Zoom lessons from home
- Please be aware that staff will be teaching the remaining children on site and so there may be some delay in admitting children to lessons on Zoom, please ask your child to be patient
- The Zoom codes will remain the same as during the period of remote learning, should your child require any technical support accessing the lessons, including Zoom codes, please contact Mr A Millar a.millar@stjamesheadle.co.uk or Mr T Millar t.millar@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Wellbeing

- To support the wellbeing of our children, Form Tutors will be delivering wellbeing sessions during Form time
- We have mental health first aiders within school who can be accessed via Mrs Chadwick, our Key Stage 3 Pastoral Manager
- Children can always speak to their Form Tutor about any concerns or worries and they will be able to offer the appropriate support
- Extracurricular activities will recommence when we return to school and I would ask you to encourage your child to participate to support their wider learning and wellbeing

Cleaning and hygiene

- We have employed extra cleaning staff who will be on site during the school day, working to maintain the highest standards of hygiene
- Children will enter the classrooms and pick up a cleaning wipe. They should then wipe the table and put the wipe in the classroom bin; this ensures that their area is further sanitised
- Sanitiser stations will be around the school site. Staff and children are reminded to use these as they pass them. There are sanitiser stations as they enter each building
- It is important that children wash their hands on a regular basis for 20 seconds using soap
- All children are asked to follow the approach of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' when coughing or sneezing
- There are designated toilets for Year groups, these will be regularly cleaned throughout the day



School layout

- Where possible, all children' desks have been arranged to face the front of the classroom
- Staff will remain socially distanced from the children
- The one-way system will remain in place thus avoiding children passing on the corridor
- Where possible, outside doors to classrooms will be used to avoid children spending too much time in the corridor
- Classroom windows should remain open to improve ventilation

Before school

- The canteen can be accessed before school. Children must sit on designated tables for their Year groups

Break and Lunchtime

- At breaktime, all children will be given a dedicated area for their Year group from which to purchase food
- At lunchtime, Year groups will be given a time slot in which they can access the canteen to purchase food and drink. They must exit the canteen area before the subsequent Year group enters
- Children will not use their thumb print when purchasing food. Payment will be made by ParentPay and children will give their name, therefore the cash loader will not be available
- At lunch, children should only be inside for their allocated slot. At all other times they should be outside. If seated in the main hall or canteen to eat, children must leave once food has been consumed
- Year group bubbles will be provided with dedicated outdoor spaces for breaktime and lunchtime. This will ensure year groups do not mix during these times. It is important, therefore, that children bring a coat with them to school in case of cold or wet weather. In line with the uniform policy the coat should be plain black or navy. A reminder that "hoodies" are banned and will be confiscated if seen on the school site and returned only to an adult

Curriculum

- The curriculum in each Faculty area will follow the progression grids which are available on the website
- There will be subjects which will not be able to teach as they would normally, for example restrictions will apply in PE, Music, Food and Nutrition and other subjects which contain more practical elements. Demonstrations may be used instead of individual practicals
- Morning prayer and assemblies will continue virtually

Equipment

- All children must bring their own equipment with them
- Where staff do provide children with equipment, this will have been disinfected and/or not have been used for the previous 48 hours (72 hours in the case of plastic)



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- Resources that are shared between Year groups, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and meticulously or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics)

Behaviour

- All children are expected to return in full school uniform to ensure we set the highest standards. There is no requirement to wash the uniform more than normal
- It is imperative that parents and children have read and understood appendix 4 of the behaviour policy- Covid 19. The policy can be found on the website under statutory information
- Children should move promptly to their next lesson and should maintain distance between other Year groups when moving

Transport

- Please be aware that whilst the buses will be running, we are unable to guarantee that Year groups will remain separate, I would therefore recommend that children walk, cycle or are dropped off by car
- Face coverings are always required on school and public transport
- Children must sanitise their hands immediately on arrival at school

May I once again take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming all members of our St James' family back to school week beginning 8th March.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



Lateral Flow Test NHS Information

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Children

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Plan for testing

We will be offering one test to all children on their return to school. They will be allowed to return to their classes following an initial negative test. They will be offered two further tests over the subsequent two-week period.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant.

School will inform the child of a positive test result. Parents or carers will also be informed of a positive result and will be asked to collect their child from school.

What if my child tests positive?

If a child tests positive by a lateral flow test, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of children may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, children who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. **School will not contact parents unless the result is positive.**

What if children have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The child will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.