



25th February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

After much deliberation, we have decided - in collaboration with Areté Learning Trust - upon the following plan for meeting the government's demanding challenge of testing all students three times, three to five days apart upon their return. In formulating this plan, we have tried to:

- ensure we can use our own staff to carry out the testing - they know the students best and can help set them at ease;
- avoid excessive delays for individual year groups returning to face-to-face education;
- avoid a situation where the school is trying to simultaneously educate and mass test, and consequently not doing either to the best of our ability;
- make the testing process as safe, supportive and efficient as possible.

I recognise there are many ways to approach this situation and can only stress that ours has been done in the best interests of our students. It requires your help as parents in bringing the students to their testing appointments (unless students can walk or drive themselves), but this means they will receive significantly more face-to-face teaching in the first week compared to if we had undertaken a much slower rolling programme of testing while children were also present in school. Thank you for supporting us to achieve this task. The plan is as follows:

Date	Educational Provision
Monday 8th March	<u>All students receive test 1</u> No students in school except critical worker/vulnerable children No live lessons, but a full programme of learning for the day set via google classroom for all timetabled lessons
Tuesday 9th March	All students <u>in all year groups</u> in school for face-to-face learning
Wednesday 10th March	
Thursday 11th March	
Friday 12th March	<u>All students receive test 2</u> No students in school except critical worker/vulnerable children No live lessons, but a full programme of learning for the day set via google classroom for all timetabled lessons
Monday 15th March	<u>All students receive test 3</u> No students in school except critical worker/vulnerable children No live lessons, but a full programme of learning set for the day via google classroom for all timetabled lessons
Tuesday 16th March onwards	All students in all year groups in school permanently (we hope!) and the roll out of student home testing begins.





Please be aware, the Department for Education has made it clear that we must do three tests in school before commencing home testing. We are not allowed to issue home testing kits until the three tests are complete and/or before March 15th, despite the fact that we know many of our parents are more than capable of supporting their children with this process.

Next week, you will receive two pieces of correspondence. One will be a google form to book your appointment - for ease, we will ask you to book one appointment which will stay the same for all three testing days. However, if this does not work for you, do not hesitate to get in touch with admin@stokesleyschool.org and we will help in any way we can. If you have more than one child in the school, please try to book your appointment as soon as you can so that you can get multiple appointments together. Again, if you don't succeed, contact us and we will help.

The second piece of correspondence you will receive will be a guide to the test centre and the testing process, we are creating this for you to discuss with your son / daughter in advance to help settle any anxiety they may have about the straightforward testing process.

Please note, critical worker and vulnerable students who are currently attending school will still be able to do so on the testing days. Please book your child an appointment during school hours and we will collect them and support them through it.

We have been overwhelmed by support from our parents / carers during this pandemic; we thank you so much for your appreciation of the work we have done and of the hurdles we have faced. Together, we will meet this latest challenge effectively and get back to doing what we do best: teaching your children.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

AMBITIOUS. RESPECTFUL. READY.

