



26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all had a chance to rest and recharge, away from a screen, during the recent half term break. As you may have heard from my check ins this week, arriving at work in the light has given a huge lift to my spirits. In addition this week, the announcements (and there have been more than one!) although prompting detailed consideration from us at school, have also indicated optimism for the future.

Although I am outlining some key actions and updates in this week's letter, I would also ask for some understanding that at the time of writing some specific details are yet unknown/not finalised. Please be assured that as soon as I can pass on further details I will do so.

Given the number of announcements this week, this letter does contain a number of details but I hope you find the subheadings useful:

Return to School

The Prime Minister spoke to the nation on Monday and mentioned all children returning to school on 8th March. The operational details released by the Department of Education on Tuesday made the FULL opening of schools a real challenge in that timeframe. This is because all students, with consenting parents, and staff have to receive a negative lateral flow test result before returning to face to face lessons and these tests will need to be conducted in schools.

Students are offered three in school lateral flow tests over the first two weeks before being provided with test kits to complete at home. If you have not already completed the consent form please use the link

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC_kKVN2UUqnozslzVoQVW73i_5A2HxBoDhUtN-POA1UM1JMVfJBVzNWMjY1TzFGMjgyOUkzMUxMC4u

This form will close on **Sunday 28th February at noon** in order for us to finalise the testing schedule. Failure to complete this form by this deadline will mean that in school tests cannot be completed and subsequent home testing kits cannot be issued.

With the government having agreed that schools can begin testing earlier than 8th March, specified in guidance on Wednesday, this will mean that most students can return as soon as possible. In order to facilitate a full return to school students will be invited in for tests according to the schedule outlined below. Prior to the 8th March students will be invited in for tests and then expected to return home.

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All parents will receive a personalised invitation for their son/daughter to attend their appointment, via SchoolComms. This will give an appointment time on the days shown below. Students, wearing face masks, should report to main reception for their tests.

	Test 1	Return to School* Pending a negative test result
6 th form	Monday 1 st March	Monday 8 th March
Yr 11	Tuesday 2 nd March	Monday 8 th March
Yr 10	Thursday 4 th March	Monday 8 th March
Yr 9	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
Yr 8	Wednesday 3 rd March	Monday 8 th March
Yr 7	Friday 5 th March	Monday 8 th March

Whilst I appreciate this does result in a degree of inconvenience for parents, only by bringing the testing forward in this way can we safely return students to school. If families feel there are any issues with this situation, please contact your son/daughter's Head of Year in the first instance.

Students already booked into the keyworker bubble will continue to attend the provision for wk comm 1st March as previously arranged.

Members of staff are also needing to test and there are wider preparations for students returning to school that requires some preparation time. I am also conscious that with testing taking place on certain days for students we would not want to overburden them with a large amount of work to catch up on.

As such the following will apply for wk comm 1st March:

Monday 1 st March	Tuesday 2 nd March	Wednesday 3 rd March	Thursday 4 th March	Friday 5 th March
<p>Yrs 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11: Continuing with existing offer of 3 'live' (periods 1, 3 and 5) and 2 lessons of remote work (periods 2 and 4)</p> <p>6th form: 3 live lessons (periods 1, 3 and 5) ONLY to enable students to catch up on anything</p>	<p>Yrs 7, 8, 9, 10 and 6th form: Continuing with existing offer of 3 'live' (periods 1, 3 5) and 2 lessons of remote work. (periods 2 and 4)</p> <p>Yr 11: 3 live lessons ONLY (periods 1, 3 and 5) to enable students to catch up on anything missed</p>	<p>Yrs 7 – 13: All students to receive ALL work remotely via SMH and for 3 lessons ONLY.</p> <p>No live/recorded lessons are expected to be delivered.</p>		

missed during testing period. No work set on SMH for periods 2 and 4.	during testing period. No work set on SMH for periods 2 and 4.			
8:40 – 12:00 6th form students Test 1	8:40 - 11:15 Yr 11 students Test 1	8:40 - 12:45 Yr 8 students Test 1	8:40 – 3:30 Yr 10 students Test 1 6th form students Test 2	8:40 – 3:30 Yr 7 students Test 1 Yr 11 students Test 2
<p>Keyworker students continue as currently with years 7 – 13 split across the 4 bubble rooms. The students have already been booked in for this week and staff have already been allocated supervision on the rota.</p>				

Results of Ofqual consultation

I have sent a separate letter to all students in years 11, 12 and 13 regarding the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education this week. This letter will be available on the website for other parents to read, if they choose to do so.

World Book Day – 4th March

World Book Day are offering a digital version of the £1 book token this year. This voucher can be printed out and exchanged for one of the exclusive new £1 World Book Day books (<https://www.worldbookday.com/2021/01/inside-the-2021-1-books/>) or the amount taken off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating bookshops and supermarkets. Please note that some booksellers will not accept the voucher on a phone or screen.

The £1 tokens are valid from **Thursday 18 February – Sunday 28 March** in participating bookshops and supermarkets. You can find out your local WBD book sellers here: <https://booksellers.org.uk/wbd>

The token cannot be used online and is for single use only. Full terms and conditions are available here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/terms-conditions/> Click on this link to download your free token £1 book token.

Draft Commissioning Strategy

I have been asked to share North Somerset Council's link to their consultation on Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy (2021 – 2024)
This can be found here:

https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/EducationProvision2021_2024/consultationHo

This is the draft plan for delivering enough school places to enable every child aged 4 – 16 (and those aged 16 – 19 in school sixth forms) to have access to a local school place in the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years.

The plans needs to meet the needs of a growing population due to new housing in some areas; oversee increases in secondary places due to larger numbers of junior aged pupils and previous residential growth; and manage a potential reduction in demand in other areas due to a fall in birth rates that may affect the numbers of pupils starting school for the first time in areas without significant new residential developments.

The consultation will run from 22 February 2021 – 5 April 2021 and responses can be made either via the e.consult pages or to sally.varley@n-somerset.gov.uk and Janice.allen@n-somerset.gov.uk

Changes to school calendar

As mentioned last term, with students returning this term it was felt inappropriate that the planned INSET days in wk comm 29th March went ahead.

Therefore, Mon 29th March, Tues 30th March and Wed 31st March will be 'normal' teaching days. This will be week B1.

As soon as the INSET days have been rearranged we will notify families. Given the changing situation, particularly around assessment this year, we do not want to choose any days that may disadvantage our students.

Finally...

in a way, given all the announcements this week, it feels an awful lot longer than a week that we have been back. Yet, we are a lot closer to seeing our classrooms and corridors full of students than we have been for a while – this is exciting!

Nailsea School is the place it is because of the family feel we have – every visitor I have ever shown around our school comments on this and it makes me very proud.

Over the course of the last few months, we know that many of our families have had struggles and suffered loss, some very recently. As I have said a number of times although we have been apart, we have and will continue to be together. Let's make sure we all give our loved ones either a virtual or physical hug over the weekend. Keep being brave.

Take care and be kind



Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher