



Headteacher **Mr. G Bartrum**

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Rowhill School Full Re-opening from 8th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well and keeping safe during this very difficult time. As you will be aware from listening to the Prime Minister's address early this week schools will be fully open from Monday 8th March. All Primary pupils will be expected to return on this date as normal. However, due to the secondary pupils being offered Coronavirus Lateral Flow Tests at school there will be a phased approach for secondary pupils returning to school, details of this are listed below.

Lateral flow Testing (LFT) for secondary pupils

From Monday 8th March we will start our asymptomatic Covid-19 testing programme for secondary pupils only. On-site tests at our asymptomatic testing site (AST) has been set up so all secondary aged pupils who wish to be tested can be tested up to three times when they return to school. If you want your child to be part of this testing programme you will need to complete a consent form giving us permission to do so. Without this consent form pupils will not be permitted to be tested. A consent form can be found on the school website

<https://www.rowhill.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=COVID%2D19&pid=139>

The aim is then for pupils to be given LFT to take home and to use them to test for Covid-19 twice a week. To support this process and to make it easier for pupils there will be lessons given on why and how this process works and how to carry out the test safely. Hopefully this will remove some of their anxiety around the testing process.

Government guidelines February 23rd: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

“With the wider reopening of schools and colleges, there will be some changes to the arrangements for testing in secondary schools and colleges. Home testing is being introduced for secondary age pupils (11+) and college students. It is important that pupils and students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site, at an asymptomatic test site (ATS). Secondary schools and colleges should offer students 3 tests on-site, 3 to 5 days apart (min 3 days), upon their return. Testing on-site (via an ATS) initially is a condition of being able to transition pupils and students to test at home.”

Phased return for Secondary pupils

Due to the impact of the asymptomatic testing of pupils from Monday March 8th the Secondary pupils will have a phased return to school. In line with the government guidelines Year 11 pupils have been identified as the priority year group and will return the quickest.

Class starting dates:

Monday 8th March- V2 & V3

Tuesday 9th March- V1 & T5

Wednesday 10th March T4 & T3

Thursday 11th march T2 & T1.

If anyone has any concerns regarding Lateral flow Testing in school or our phased return please contact the school and we will be happy to discuss this with you.

As always thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours Sincerely

Mr G Bartrum
Headteacher
Rowhill School