

29th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Update on Return to School In January 2021

I write to update you on the situation for returning to school following the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

As things stand currently, **secondary schools** are still being asked to stagger the return of students from January 4th 2021, whilst **Primary Schools** are due to return as normal at the start of term.

It continues to be the case that students with EHCP's, students who have critical worker parents/carers and **all special schools** are being asked to open as normal from the start of term.

Therefore, as things stand at the moment, **New Forest School will open as planned** after the Christmas break:

Monday 4th January: INSET day

Tuesday 5th January: All students return to school

As always, should anything change before January 5th I will of course contact all parents/carers and update you.

Update on COVID-19 Testing of Students/Staff

It continues to be the case that schools are being strongly encouraged to develop and run a programme of **asymptomatic lateral flow testing**.

These tests are optional and require either consent from the parent/carers for students or consent from staff members to be tested.

Those students/staff **who do not choose to participate** in the testing programme would need to self-isolate for 10 days if they have close contact with a positive case as we have been through last term.

Consent and Further Information

Many thanks to those parents/carers who have completed the online consent form.

I would be grateful if those parents/carers who have not yet been able to complete the form could do so by clicking the link below:

<http://s.alchemer.eu/s3/New-Forest-School-COVID-19-Testing>

To help parents/carers make an informed decision before giving completing the consent form please see the information page on the school website which provides:

1. Details on what the Lateral Flow Test is, including an infographic from the NHS and a video explaining the Lateral Flow Test.
2. Information on what happens if the Lateral Flow Test is positive OR negative
3. Details of what parents/carers would be consenting to.
4. A link to our online consent form.

This webpage can be viewed at:

<http://newforestschool.co.uk/about/coronavirus/rapid-testing/>

As ever, I remain incredibly grateful for your support of the school and would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Kindest regards,



Duncan Smith
Headteacher