



25th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Full Return to School

As you will have heard, pupils will start to return to school on the week beginning 8th March. The first 4 days of that week will be used to provide all pupils with a Covid test (see below for details). Following the completion of these tests, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Friday 12th March**.

The timetable, routines and rules will mostly be as they were for the autumn term. There are just a few changes which we are required to implement which are set out below.

Masks

Pupils will be **required to wear face masks** in school, in both classrooms and corridors. Please make sure that pupils have a mask with them, it is not optional, this requirement will be **strictly enforced**.

Masks do not have to be worn outside in the playground at break and lunchtimes or during physical activities in PE lessons.

A small number of young people are exempt from wearing a mask due to medical reasons. If your child is exempt, please provide your child with a note to indicate this or email: admin@gladesmore.com. Do please ensure we are aware of this. Medical evidence may be requested.

Pupils will be checked at the gate on arrival, throughout each day, and will be required to wear a face mask. Pupils who are exempt will be issued with a lanyard if they can show a note from a parent/carer and have medical exemption. Masks or lanyards should be worn every day.

Masks should be stored hygienically when not in use and reusable masks will need to be washed periodically.

I fully appreciate that some would prefer not to have to wear a mask, they can be uncomfortable for long periods, but it is imperative that we do our utmost to keep everyone safe. Many of our school community live with vulnerable people, and all too many are very sadly grieving from the impact of the coronavirus. My sincere sympathy goes out to all who have lost loved ones. Many are anxious that schools are reopening, and fear that infection may spread. It is an awful pandemic, so we must do what we can to protect others and ourselves. The local and national situation is improving so we hope to be in a much better position shortly. The control measures will be reviewed at Easter with advice from Public Health England.



COVID Tests

Before pupils return to school, we are required to offer them a COVID lateral flow test. The schedule for these is shown below. Pupils should **come to the entrance in Gladesmore Road**, in full school uniform, wearing a mask and then go to the auditorium.

The purpose of the lateral flow tests is to identify anyone who may be positive for the virus but not showing any symptoms. Any pupils who are unwell should remain at home as usual.

Pupils can only undertake a lateral flow test with parent/carers permission.

Please complete the **online form** to provide this. Click on this link: <https://forms.gle/A7tkUepJThxbv9DB8> Otherwise, if you prefer, you may print the form and your child can bring it in with them.

Pupils will swab the back of their mouth and nose themselves. Our trained testing team will manage the tests. These are processed quickly, and the result will be sent to you directly. Pupils will be offered two further tests when they are back at school. Parents/carers will, in due course, also be issued with testing kits to use at home.

Schedule for Lateral Flow Tests:

	Monday 8 March	Tuesday 9 March	Wednesday 10 Mar	Thursday 11 March
8.30am	7ZSN	8VFE	9PFS	Staff
9.00am	7BSK	8EBE	9ABN	10EEM
9.30am	7CMI	8GGL	9ALE	10HBN
10.00am	7EHO	8JOH	9BKY	10HSN
10.30am	7GGE	8MAM	9CJS	10JPY
11.00am	7MLT	8MBE	9MMY	10RLE
12.00pm	7MMN	8RAL	9SCR	10SCS
12.30pm	7PNO	8RBI	9SHS	10THN
1.00pm	7SWS	8TGE	9VBR	10VMY
2.00pm	11FWD	11PDY	11TLE	Staff
2.30pm	11MMR	11PME	11APR.	Catch up
3.00pm	Staff	11SDS	11CLN	Catch up
3.30pm	Catch up	Catch up	Catch up	Catch up

Curriculum

We will resume the usual timetable with the full range of subjects available. On days where pupils have Physical Education, they should **come to school in Gladesmore PE uniform** and wear this all day. This avoids the need for changing.

Social distancing

It is imperative that all pupils always maintain a **2-metre** social distance from staff. Staff work with children across all bubbles and are required to social distance from pupils and each other.

Pupils must keep separate from children in other year group bubbles and maintain social distancing. They must avoid physical contact with each other. Hugging is not permitted.

Pupils must continue to obey the rules regarding moving around school, following one-way systems where they are in place and keeping to the left in corridors in the main building.

Health controls

Very importantly, we ask that any **children who are unwell** should stay at home. For example, if a child has a cold or is coughing or sneezing, they should stay at home for a week or longer until completely well. This remains a critical control measure to both minimise the potential for colds and flu being spread and reduce general anxiety. If a child becomes unwell at school, they will be sent home and asked to stay home until they are better.

If any child, or someone they **have any contact with**, develop symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should not attend school. This is regardless of whether the child is showing any symptoms.

Anyone with coronavirus symptoms, and anyone who has had close contact with someone who has tested positive will be expected to self-isolate for 10 days. Remote learning materials will be available for young people who might need to remain at home.

We continue to closely monitor the local coronavirus infection rates and the guidance from the DFE and Public Health England; it may become necessary to make changes; sometimes at short notice.

The safety of your children and the staff is of utmost importance to us.

The reopening of school for all pupils will be on Friday 12th March. The start and end of school will continue to be staggered as it was during last term. Year groups must continue to use the entrances specified below:

Year 7: Crowland Road entrance - start at 8.30am and depart at 2.30pm (1.30pm on Thursday and Friday).

Year 8: Gladesmore Road entrance - start at 8.30am and depart at 2.30pm (1.30pm on Thursday and Friday).

Year 9: Crowland Road entrance - start at 9.30am and depart at 2.50pm (2.00pm on Thursday and Friday).

Year 10: Gladesmore Road entrance - start at 10.00am and depart at 3.40pm (2.50pm on Friday).

Year 11: Crowland Road entrance - start at 10.00am and depart at 3.40pm (2.50pm on Friday).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for all your understanding during this challenging time. With your cooperation we can make the return to school safe, happy, and enjoyable for everyone.

Sincerely

T. Hartney CBE