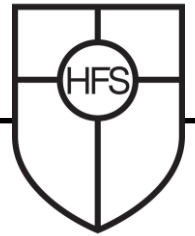


# The Holy Family



## Catholic School

Our Ref: SMA/DK

24 February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

### School re-opening week commencing 8 March 2021

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As you will be aware, on Monday of this week, the Prime Minister announced that we are able to welcome all students back to full time face to face teaching from Monday 8 March 2021. All the staff at Holy Family are absolutely delighted with this news and we can't wait to see everyone and be back working together as a community.

Please can I ask that you read the following information carefully and in full as it will hopefully answer all of your questions regarding the return to school. If, once you have done so, you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

#### Attendance/Testing

Part of the condition of students returning to school is that we carry out asymptomatic testing for Covid-19 in school. We are required to test each student on their return to school and then twice more during the following two weeks. Following those three tests, the Government will be asking you to test your children at home twice weekly until further notice. **Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.**

For students under the age of 16, we need parental consent prior to administering the tests. We will be in touch shortly with the required consent information and would ask you to complete the required consent for each child you have attending the school under the age of 16 and return it to us as instructed as soon as possible.

To enable us to manage the testing of students on their return to school, we will be staggering the return during week commencing 8 March 2021 as follows:

**Monday 8 March – all Year 11/13 students return to school from 8.35 am.** Students should continue to follow exactly the same routines as before Christmas regarding entrances and form room etc. Students will be given instructions regarding testing on their arrival. **Students in all other year groups should remain at home and continue to access online learning.**

**Tuesday 9 March – Year 11/13 students attend as normal. All Year 10/12 students return to school from 8.35 am.** Students should continue to follow exactly the same routines as before Christmas regarding entrances and form room etc. Students in Years 10/12 will be given instructions regarding testing on their arrival. **Students in Years 7,8 & 9 should remain at home and continue to access online learning.**

**Wednesday 10 March – Year 10,11,12 & 13 students attend as normal. All Year 7 students return to school from 8.35 am.** Students should continue to follow exactly the same routines as before Christmas regarding entrances and form room etc. Students in

Year 7 will be given instructions regarding testing on their arrival. **Students in Years 8 & 9 should remain at home and continue to access online learning.**

**Thursday 11 March – Year 7,10,11,12 & 13 students attend as normal. All Year 8 students return to school from 8.35 am.** Students should continue to follow exactly the same routines as before Christmas regarding entrances and form room etc. Students in Year 8 will be given instructions regarding testing on their arrival. **Students in Year 9 should remain at home and continue to access online learning.**

**Friday 12 March – Year 7,8,10,11,12 & 13 students attend as normal. All Year 9 students return to school from 8.35 am.** Students should continue to follow exactly the same routines as before Christmas regarding entrances and form room etc. Students in Year 9 will be given instructions regarding testing on their arrival.

**From week commencing 15 March, all students are expected to attend school as normal.** The second and third Asymptomatic Covid-19 tests will take place in line with Government guidance. You only need to provide consent once for all of the tests.

All students who have been attending school during lockdown may continue to do so during the phased return regardless whether their Year Group is in school or not however, we will be unable to offer them the same face to face teaching that has been provided since January. This is because staff will be involved in asymptomatic testing and preparing for the full school reopening. Any students attending on the days when their Year Group are not in school will be supervised in their Year Group bubbles and will be able to access the online learning provided on Classcharts by their teachers.

### Face Coverings

As you know, all students and staff have been required to wear face coverings in communal areas in school since we reopened in September. On Monday the Prime Minister announced that up until the Easter holiday, **face coverings should be worn in classrooms as well.** As such, your child(ren) will be expected to wear a face covering at all times when they are in inside the school building (with the exception of when they are eating their lunch). Face coverings may not be worn during P.E. lessons or other lessons when they would interfere with students' ability to participate fully, but these instances will be the exception rather than the rule. Please ensure that your child(ren) are aware of this expectation prior to their return to school and that they have a close fitting fabric face covering with them as part of their basic equipment every school day. This arrangement will be reviewed at Easter and any changes will be implemented in line with Government guidance. The above information does not apply to any students exempt from wearing face coverings.

As was the case before Christmas, students are expected to wear face coverings on any form of public transport travelling to or from school. This includes school buses and any PTS services.

### School Uniform

All students will be expected to return to school in their full school uniform. The DfE guidance states that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

Our uniform is the strongest visual representation we have of our standards. All of our uniform code, as stated on our website, ought to be followed.

**The only exception to this will be on the days when students are timetabled for P.E. lessons. On these days, students should wear their P.E. kit to school for the entire day. This measure remains in place to remove the need for students and staff to congregate in changing rooms, thus supporting social distancing as much as possible.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. As stated above, all school routines/expectations not specifically mentioned above that were in place prior to the Christmas holiday remain in place. Please see my letter dated 26 August 2020 on the school website for further details of anything that I have not covered here. I will of course be in contact with any further changes/updates as they happen.

On behalf of the whole staff team here at The Holy Family Catholic School, I would like to pass on our thanks for all the work and support parents have given the students during this period of remote learning and to say again how much we look forward to welcoming all our students back to face to face learning from 8 March 2021 onwards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Mather'.

S Mather  
Interim Headteacher