

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Reopening from March 8th

Firstly, we wanted to thank you for everything that you have been doing to support your child with their learning during the current lockdown. This has been a very challenging time for everyone and we are very appreciative of everything that you have been doing. Our pupils and staff have really risen to the challenges of remote learning, and their hard work will have ensured that any potential loss of learning is absolutely minimised.

As you will aware, the Government announced yesterday that schools will be working towards welcoming all pupils back to school during the week of the 8th March. We will reopen to all pupils in a phased way as outlined below:

Primary Phase

All primary school pupils will return to school as normal on Monday 8th March.

Secondary Phase

Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March

To enable us to complete the Lateral Flow Testing that the Government has requested for secondary-aged children, we will be welcoming back different year groups on different days. This will also enable us to reinforce the routines that were in place prior to the Christmas break to ensure that Covid risks are minimised.

Along with the other protective measures that we are taking, these Lateral Flow Tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have Coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing, we will help to stop the spread of the virus and help to keep our School open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to take it. Two further tests will also be given in school in line with Government guidelines and pupils will then receive testing kits to use at home under supervision from parents.

Continued ...

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Attached to this letter is an information leaflet about the Lateral Flow Tests. If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please complete the form on Parentmail to give your consent by 3pm Monday 1st March**. A separate link to this form will be sent to you by email.

Once we know the numbers of tests required on each day, we will send more detailed information home, including when each year group will return in preparation for the wider opening of the school. I can confirm however, that Year 11 pupils will return on Monday 8th March.

A number of other announcements were made yesterday regarding changes to procedures in schools. Many of these were already in place at Litcham, as we have always tried to ensure that every possible precaution was taken. The national changes are outlined below:

Rules for schools in England

From 8 March



All pupils in all years can return to schools and colleges



Twice-weekly tests for secondary school and college pupils, initially on-site and then at home



Staff will also be tested regularly



Face coverings must be worn in secondary schools indoors, including classrooms, unless 2m social distancing is possible



Face coverings also recommended in early years and primary schools for staff and adult visitors where social distancing between adults is not possible



After school clubs and children's sport activities can resume

On a separate note, just before half term, we had some good news that we wanted to share with you. Our Trust was successful in securing funding through a bidding process to make our Secondary Phase more energy-efficient. The funding will enable us to change our heating systems, insulate the building, change all of our lighting to LEDs and replace the single glazed windows in the main part of the building. This work is significant and will cost over £1,000,000. It will make a huge difference to the school and should be completed by the end of August this year.

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you about the sudden death of Buddy, our school dog. He was involved in a car accident during half term and died instantly. This news will affect some children more than others and with most children learning from home, we felt that it would be most appropriate if their main carers talked to them about what has happened. If you feel that you need help in telling your child, please contact us and we can support you in that. As we are unable to support all children directly at this time, please do give your child an opportunity to ask questions and talk about Buddy, especially if they knew him well. Talking about good memories can be really helpful.

We will write to you next week with further information but in the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the School.

Yours sincerely



Robert Martlew
Headteacher



Stuart Wilson
Deputy Headteacher



Kate Atkins
Head of Primary Phase

