



Headteacher: Mr Dominic Wilkes BSc (Hons) NPQH

BUDEHAVEN
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware of the government's announcement on Monday on the roadmap for leaving lockdown, and the subsequent operational guidance published by the Department for Education. There is a significant amount of information to digest and process, and ensure that we as a school are as well prepared as we can be for the return of all students to Budehaven Community School.

The requirements the government has set for secondary schools reopening on 8th March are particularly challenging, particularly with the promotion and engagement in asymptomatic testing. To conform to the government's guidelines, unfortunately it isn't possible for the school to have all students return in the week commencing 8th March as we don't have the capacity to complete COVID-19 testing for all year groups in the manner required to do as directed by Public Health England, within this period. I have consulted with Cornwall Council regarding this matter, and they support our need to stagger the return of students to school into the week commencing 15th March to ensure safety is the priority for everyone, whilst conforming to central Government direction. The requirements for mass COVID-19 testing makes the process particularly complex, not least as we have to very carefully plan for the first test students receive on their first day back in school, and then coordinate second and third tests all within 3-5 days of one another. It is important we complete this process correctly; as I have stated throughout the pandemic, the health, safety and wellbeing of our school community is of paramount importance and must always come first.

We are therefore planning a phased return of year groups starting on Monday 8th March running through to Wednesday 17th March, details of which are outlined below:

Date Returning to School	Year Group
Monday 8 March	10, 12 & 13
Tuesday 9 March	11
Wednesday 10 March	7
Tuesday 16 March	8
Wednesday 17 March	9

Once a year group has returned and received their first COVID-19 test, they will remain in school for face to face teaching thereafter. COVID-19 testing will continue up to Thursday 25th March by which time it is hoped all students for whom consent has been given, will have received their three tests and been issued their home test kits. On Monday 1st March every parent and carer will receive a request for consent for testing in school via the Classcharts app. If you do not yet have access to Classcharts, please contact enquiries@budehaven.cornwall.sch.uk as soon as possible. If you are unable to email, please contact the school on 01288 353271 from Monday 1st March.

Remote learning will continue for those students not in school throughout this transitional period (with work being set on Google classrooms), as will the in-school provision for vulnerable children and those of critical workers. The return to teaching in school will mean live streamed lessons will cease. Further details on the asymptomatic testing on site, parental consent and home test kits will be sent to you shortly, once the Government release such information to us.

I would also like to draw your attention to some of the key points that have been identified from the latest government's operational guidance.

Face coverings – face coverings should now be worn in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing can't be maintained. This does not apply to situations where a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity e.g. PE lessons. We advise students to bring a spare face covering, should theirs become unsuitable for use as the day progresses. This is likely to be a temporary measure. Transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn though the guidance cautions that "There is currently very limited evidence regarding the effectiveness or safety of transparent face coverings"

Face visors / shields are not to be worn as an alternative to face coverings.

Bubbles and close contacts – there is no change to the school's arrangements that were in place pre-lockdown regarding year group bubbles and close contacts.

Mass testing – After three tests have been carried out in school, secondary students will be able to test from home. They first need to be tested three times on site, 3 to 5 days apart. The first test will be offered as they return in the week beginning 8th March. Once the three tests are completed, the School will need to maintain a small on-site testing facility so they can offer testing to students who are unable or unwilling to test themselves at home.

Attendance – school attendance will be mandatory for all students from 8th March (taking into account the fact that secondary schools are permitted to stagger the return of students). The usual rules on school attendance apply. Students who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) should shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally.

Visits and trips – the government advises against all educational visits at this time.

Curriculum – some restrictions around music, dance, drama and sport still apply. We have adjusted the curriculum to accommodate these restrictions.

Lunchtimes

Because of the need to repurpose our Sports Hall as a Lateral Flow Device testing area, we are unable to provide our normal lunchtime arrangements during this period. For this reason, we have extended the provision of *Wonde* vouchers for those students in receipt of free school meals, to the value of their normal Free School Meals allowance. Between the 8th March and when we break up for the Easter holidays, students will be expected to bring their own packed lunch to school, as the canteen

facilities will not resume until after the Easter holidays. This means that there will be no food available to buy within school during this period.

To help prepare for the school's reopening on 8th March, and for teachers to undertake planning for assessments for exam year groups, Friday 5th March will be a staff training day, and all lessons will be uploaded prior to this day. There will be no live lessons delivered online, but work will still be provided via Google Classroom, and will include some pre-recorded direct teaching as well as time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently.

We maintain our high expectations of full school uniform, footwear and hairstyles as we welcome our students back to school. We appreciate the financial pressures many people have faced over the last year, so please do let us know if you have any issues with providing the correct uniform in advance of the return of your child to school, so we can help. I would like to remind all parents and carers that hair colour should be of a natural colour, with no extreme colours, and students are allowed to wear one pair of stud earrings, and are allowed one, stud nose piercing. Information about uniform can be found at the following webpage <http://www.budehaven.cornwall.sch.uk/uniform/>

I fully understand the above plans may cause further inconvenience to parents and carers, but I would like to reassure you that we are doing all that we can to get your child back into the classroom and to start receiving face-to-face teaching as soon as we can safely do so. Our safety precautions at this stage will hopefully mitigate any risk of further disruption. There will of course be further updates to follow in the coming days regarding the school's reopening, and details on this year's assessments for our exam year groups.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Wilkes', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Dominic Wilkes