



St Edward's School
HAMPSHIRE

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you all have had an enjoyable summer break. As we look forward to the start of the new term, I would like to share with parents/guardians our plans and some changes in the coming year.

As the government continues its easing of Covid-19 restrictions and we look ahead to the autumn term, we find ourselves once again adapting to a new set of operational guidelines that have been issued to all schools. Much has changed and I would like to draw your attention to the following important information:

Covid-19 Testing

On return to school in September, the government has stated that every senior pupil will receive two onsite lateral flow tests, 3 – 5 days apart. Thereafter, the advice is that pupils and staff should undertake twice weekly testing at home as before.

Our first onsite testing day will be Monday 6th September. Each pupil will be allocated a time slot for attending school, as per last year, for testing and will be guided into the old gym. Pupils' keyworkers will be in contact with further details and timings.

If you provided consent for your child to test in school last academic year, we will assume that this consent continues. If this has changed, then can you please let their keyworker know before the start of term. New pupils will be sent consent forms in the coming days.

Contact Tracing

You will be aware that since the start of the pandemic, schools completed the contact tracing when a pupil tested positive. They advised that any close contacts would also need to self-isolate for 10 days and take a PCR test.

This guidance changed on the 19th July and responsibility for contact tracing within schools has now passed to NHS Test & Trace. NHS Test and Trace will now contact those pupils who test positive (or their parent or legal guardian) to identify their close contacts and NHS Test and Trace will notify those close contacts instead of the school.

Close Contacts

With effect from 16th August, staff who are double jabbed and pupils aged under 18 will no longer be legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. They will be advised instead to take a PCR test.

Providing the PCR test is negative, all pupils who are close contacts of a positive case can continue to attend school. They may still be advised by NHS Test and Trace to wear a mask and reduce their contacts outside of school.

If your child becomes a close contact of a positive case, please could you report this information to their keyworker so we can be vigilant for any signs of infection.

Covid-19 Restrictions and Protection Measures

Many of the Covid-19 restrictions and protection measures have been eased and the focus remains only on the following four key areas:

- Ensuring good hand and respiratory hygiene for everyone. We will continue to ensure frequent and thorough hand washing with soap or hand sanitiser and we will continue to promote the “Catch it, kill it, bin it” regime whereby all used tissues will be disposed of in specialist bins.
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes. We will continue to regularly clean areas and equipment with an anti-virucidal product and there will continue to be a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. Antibacterial sanitiser will still be available at every school exit.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated. We will continue to open doors and windows to provide increased ventilation.
- We would ask all parents and guardians to ensure that pupils test at home twice weekly.

There is no longer a requirement for pupils to wear face masks in school (but masks still must be worn on dedicated school transport). Any pupil wishing to wear a mask can do so and it will not be discouraged.

Please can I remind you that if your child is experiencing any one of the following symptoms:

- A new and continuous cough
- A temperature
- A loss of sense of taste and/or smell

then they must not attend school and must self-isolate at home and take a PCR test. Lateral flow tests are to be used by asymptomatic children only and anyone with any of these three covid symptoms must take a PCR test.

Please also be vigilant for other signs of covid such as sore throat, tiredness and runny nose as these are also emerging as common symptoms of the Delta variant.

Daily Timetable

There has been a slight change to the school timetable. Morning break will be extended to 15 minutes to allow more time for physical activity, structured play, or simply enjoying time with friends. During this extending morning break, pupils will be provided with a substantial snack, given the slightly later lunchtime. The cessation of the shorter breaks will ensure that pupils remain regulated and better ready to learn.

New Timetable Structure for 2021-2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45-9.30		Sensory Circuits followed by Guided Reading	Sensory Circuits followed by Guided Reading	Sensory Circuits followed by Guided Reading	Sensory Circuits followed by Guided Reading
9.30-9.45		TFTD	TFTD	TFTD	TFTD
9.45-10.30		1	1	1	1
10.00-10.15	TFTD Headmaster				
10.30-11.15	2	2	2	2	2
11.15-11.30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Wider Horizons
11.30-12.15	3	3	3	3	
12.15-1.00	4	4	4	4	Wider Horizons
1.00-1.40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1.40-2.00	Zones of Regulation / Social Thinking	Zones of Regulation / Social Thinking	Zones of Regulation / Social Thinking	Zones of Regulation / Social Thinking	Lunch Depart
2.00-2.45	5	5	5	5	
2.45-3.30	6	6	6	6	
3.30	Depart	Depart	Depart	Depart	

Break – Teacher led guided activities

The structure of the day will be slightly amended to ensure additional time for mathematics and English, so vital for the life chances of all pupils, but school will continue to end at 3.30pm except for pupils who follow a residential programme after school.

Guided Reading/Booster

To support pupil literacy we will continue to ensure pupils follow the Accelerated Reader programme between Tuesday and Friday morning. To ensure pupils are regulated and able to access this programme they will be encouraged to engage in a sensory circuit designed to support regulation with activities designed to alert, organise and calm alongside strengthening exercises. After lunch, Monday to Thursday a rolling programme of zones of regulation, literacy, numeracy, Social Thinking, philosophy and mental health and wellbeing will also be introduced in order to facilitate greater access to the curriculum and encourage broader life skills and independence.

Friday Activities- Wider Horizons

During the coming year we will extend the range of activities on offer and where appropriate offer accredited courses. The details of this have yet to be finalised but the aim is to offer *Wider Horizon* opportunities to include sailing, motorbikes, mountain bikes, kayaking, fishing, snowboarding, skilling and a host of other activities. What will change is that Friday activities will run from the end of lesson two, except in weeks three and six, when it will take the entire school day. Once we have finalised the details we will inform parents/guardians.

Building Programme

I make no secret of wanting to provide the best education possible for our pupils. Our school estate, as many of you know, is set in acres of beautiful countryside, which we continue to maintain and where possible make available for the use of all pupils. To continue to maintain and develop the site we have decided to build a new education block. The new building will be ready in April next year. Mindful of our responsibilities and wishing to limit our carbon footprint, the new build will be a *Passivhaus* building system that will result in a zero-carbon build. This new type of construction will also ensure that our reliance on fossil fuels for heating and lighting is reduced. Details of the new building have been shared with pupils and I would encourage parents/carers to visit our new website, which will be ready in October, for more details.

To make way for our new teaching block we have relocated the Games Room into the Old Gym. This new provision has meant that we can also introduce new games as well as keeping the snooker table, football table, tennis table and various pool tables.

I appreciate there is an awful lot of information in this letter, but I do hope it is useful and helps you to understand what September at St Edward's will look like. In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to welcoming parents/guardians back into school. However, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns. As always, our main priority remains the happiness, wellbeing and safety of our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Maher', written in a cursive style.

Mr Maher
Headmaster