



**Headteacher: Mr D. Williams**  
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Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Year 6 parent / carer,

You will no doubt be aware that the government is planning to ease COVID restrictions as part of its Roadmap over the summer. This will mean some removal of certain operational measures in secondary schools which will have very little impact on your child as a new pupil here in September. Nevertheless there are a few operational measures which are relevant and so I wanted to outline these for you.

### **Face coverings**

Pupils will not be required to wear face coverings in school, nor will they be required on school transport. They may, however, choose to wear face coverings at any time they choose.

### **Hand Hygiene**

The requirement to wash or sanitise hands regularly will remain. We have some hand sanitisation stations on site however we do ask parents to provide their children with their own small bottle of hand sanitiser for personal use. We ask pupils to take responsibility for this themselves.

### **Self-isolation**

Only pupils who test positive for COVID will be required to self-isolate. Any close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test by the NHS Test & Trace system if required. There will be no 'bubble' system in schools and so groups of pupils won't be sent home to self-isolate. That said, Year 7 have been allocated their own play space and will continue to be collected for each lesson and so will not be mixing much with other year groups at changeover.

### **Testing**

We have been asked to set up a mass testing facility in September to ensure that there are no positive cases as pupils return after the summer break. This is a major logistical challenge as we are required to train our own staff and carry out over 1000 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests (twice per pupil) during the first week back.

We have however done this before and plans are already well underway. This will mean that we will be carrying this out with our new Year 7 pupils too; some of whom may not have had to do them before. The tests are self-administered by the children and are just based on nasal swabs; staff will simply be supervising them, processing the tests and recording results. Our current pupils and staff have been carrying the tests out for many months and so are used to them but I do appreciate that it may be new for your child. Indeed I am slightly disappointed that this will be the first thing that Year 7 will do on their first day of high school however we will endeavour to carry it out as swiftly as possible. We are also still planning to use that first day as an induction day for Year 7 and so there will be other activities planned throughout the day to ease them into their new school environment as smoothly as possible. Your child's first day of school will still



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begin at 8.50am on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** as planned but other year groups will be joining on a staggered basis throughout the first 3 days of term.

From experience, one of the biggest stumbling blocks is gaining consent from families and so we now request this electronically. The tests are actually voluntary and no pupil will be forced to take a test if they don't want to. The government is obviously keen to minimise the risk of spreading infection into schools after the summer and so they very much hope that pupils do participate for this very reason. If you are happy to provide consent for testing, I would therefore ask that you click on the following link and complete the simple form as soon as possible so that there is no delay to integrating the children into school when we process the tests. Your child will also be provided with home test kits early next term for twice weekly testing at least until the end of September.

Here is the link for the consent form; please complete as soon as possible.

<https://forms.gle/LdxFHG3TqauuF6gy7>

Thank you for your support in this matter. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children to school next term when we will do all we can to reassure them and integrate them into life here at Weobley.

I wish you an excellent summer!

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams