

Dear Parent/Carer

This is just a short holding communication while we finalise the arrangements for students' return to school.

I'm sure that the news that schools will be conducting a staggered reopening from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March is a huge relief to everyone.

Before we send out further details of our reopening plans I would ask you as a matter of urgency to provide your consent for us to conduct a Lateral Flow Test on your child if you haven't already done so.

Please give your consent (**if you haven't already**) here:

<https://forms.gle/ZH52RQA2ftmiiNnKA>

We will contact you again later this week or early next week with the details of when your child will be tested and the day that they will be able to return to school. The first test will be a 'drop-in' test and your child will return home after having had the test.

Schools have to conduct lateral flow tests on their students prior to their return to school. We are also taking delivery of test kits that will be sent home to you so that as we move forward you will be able to test at home for possible asymptomatic Covid in your child. The government has said that the condition of receiving these kits are that your child has undertaken tests in school.

We have been strongly advised by the government that we should encourage all of our cohort to take part in this testing programme. However, the government have also stated that this testing is not mandatory and students (parents) do not have to give consent. If you do not consent, your child will not be tested but will still return to school on the same day as the rest of their year group.

In the meantime, please await further information about the date and time for your child's first test.

Kind regards

Mr Steven Haycocks

HEADTEACHER  
BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)