



5th March 2021

Dear parent or carer,

Apologies in advance for the length of this letter. There is a lot of information to get across to you in order that we have a successful start back to school for all next week.

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given the school and your children over the past couple of months. These have once again been challenging times and I am so proud of what we – our school community of teachers, pupils and families – have achieved. So many people in so many ways have pulled together to see us through what in my opinion have been the toughest weeks of the pandemic. We now stand ready to welcome our children back into the building to continue their education. We have missed them all greatly and cannot wait to have them back.

Secondly, I'd like to thank all those of you who have consented to taking part in our testing programme in school. We have had a fantastic response and our testing of Years 10 and 11 is well underway already. If you have not already consented and wish to do so, please see the COVID-19 section of our website.

As explained in our communications earlier this week, school will reopen week beginning 8th March for each year group on a different day after pupils have had their first test. For full details see the [letters section](#) on the school website. **Only years 10 and 11 will return to normal school lesson on Monday 8th March.** The days when pupils can return to normal lessons are as follows:

RETURN TO SCHOOL schedule. All pupils in each year group will return to school and resume normal lessons on the following days:

Date	Year group
Monday 8 th March	10 & 11
Wednesday 10 th March	9
Thursday 11 th March	8
Friday 12 th March	7

On the days indicated above, your child should return to school at the normal time and go to their usual outdoor space to await collection by their form tutor. The school gates will open as normal at 8.30am.

School operations

The government has not significantly changed its guidance on how we can run school during the next phase of the pandemic. This means that school will continue to run as it did between September and Christmas with pupils organised in year group bubbles and groups of rooms being allocated to each year. Specialist rooms, for example science labs, will be in use for all year groups with additional cleaning measures in place. We continue to have hand sanitiser points at all building entrance points and in or just outside all classrooms. Year groups will still have their own outdoor space at break and lunchtime and packed lunches can be ordered on a daily basis via our sticker system during morning form time. Our one-way system – the Central Line – is still in operation allowing us to move around the school site outside and avoiding crossing indoors and creating crowded corridors.

Principal: Dr N Walmsley



We will take some extra time in each form time at the beginning of every day this week in school to make sure our pupils are clear about everything and are settling well back into school like. If you have any concerns, please do get in touch with school.

Behaviour

We will continue to raise expectations around behaviour when we return to school, and our behaviour policy will be recomunicated to pupils during the first week back. We are always grateful for your support in working with us to improve behaviour in school and I look forward moving things on during the remaining time we have before we break up for summer.

Mobile phones

You may remember from communications before Christmas that when pupils return to school, they will not be allowed to use their phone or other mobile device during the school day. They may bring their phone or mobile device to school, but these must remain switched off and out of sight in a bag or inside blazer pocket at all times. Headphones must also not be used or visible in school. The full details of our new policy can be found in the [letters section](#) of the website (letter dated 07/12/20). If your child wishes to contact you during the school day, they should speak to a member of staff who will arrange for this to happen at an appropriate time. If you wish to get a message to your child, please contact the main school office who will arrange for a message to be passed on.

Uniform

In order to maintain high standards of uniform in school, can I ask that pupils return to school in full uniform including appropriate footwear (no trainers). In particular, please do not send your child in skinny fit trousers, black jeans or leggings. Skirts should be pleated (not stretch) and sit just about the knee. Trousers for girls and boys should be a smart tailored black trouser. Mrs O'Farrell has produced information on a separate letter [here](#) to support you in ensuring you have all items of uniform. I would like to reassure you that we realise it is not necessarily easy to get replacement uniform in the current circumstances, but we will work with you to resolve any issues speedily. Please let us know if you are experiencing any difficulties with uniform.

Please also remember that our measures in place to maintain ventilation in classrooms mean that windows will be open and therefore rooms will be colder than normal. We will, of course, have our heating systems on, but we will also allow children to wear their outdoor coats in lessons to keep warm so please ensure they bring these to school.

I would also remind you that we do not allow makeup or jewellery other than a single stud in each earlobe to be worn in school. Jewellery may be confiscated if seen and pupils will be asked to remove makeup before they are allowed to attend lessons. Similarly, any type of false nail needs to be removed before returning to school. Again, pupils who do have false nails on will not be allowed in lessons until they are removed. We will phone you for your support if your child refuses to remove either make-up or nails during the school day.

Face coverings

As was the case before Christmas, government guidance states that face coverings should be worn when moving around on corridors and between lessons. We will continue to insist that pupils and staff wear face coverings during these times at lesson change over, when they are moving to or from their outdoor space at the beginning and ends of breaks and also when they arrive at and leave school. Pupils will be able to remove their face coverings at break and lunchtime once they are in their outdoor bubble areas. They will also be allowed to remove them in their form rooms at lunch time to eat their lunch.

If you feel for whatever reason that your child should be exempt on medical grounds from wearing a face covering, we will supply them with an exemption card. If your child had one of these cards previously, we will reissue when school reopens. If you wish to request an exemption card for your child, please contact the school office and we will arrange this. We do not require proof of any medical condition in order to get an exemption card.

The new government guidance recommends the use of face coverings in classrooms until Easter when the guidance will be reviewed. I appreciate that wearing a face covering for such a long period – potentially two hours at a time – is far from ideal. However, this has to be a collective effort to keep every member of our school community safe and

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in that spirit, I will be asking pupils and staff to follow the guidance and wear a face covering in lessons whenever possible. At CLHS we will strongly encourage all pupils and staff to follow this recommendation and discuss with any pupils refusing to wear a face covering in lessons why this is the case. I hope you and your child will support us in making CLHS as safe as possible for everyone and consent to wearing a face covering during lessons.

Equipment

Having settled and purposeful starts to lessons is key to establishing the right learning culture in our classrooms. Every child having their own equipment – pen, pencil, ruler etc. – makes a huge difference to teachers being able to begin lessons without disruption. Being organised with their own equipment is also a skill we need to build in our pupils as they progress through school so they are ready for the world of work. With this in mind, please ensure that your child has everything they need to be able to participate in lessons – a blue or black pen, a pencil, a ruler and a rubber. If your child is short of equipment, they can purchase this from their form tutor every morning at a price of 10p per item. Alternatively, they can buy them from our online reward store using points they have earned for good behaviour around school (25 points per item). Your child's form tutor will talk them through how to do this.

Transport

School buses will pick at the normal times (can provide these). Pupils can pay their fares on the bus or bus passes can be bought on the Lancashire website. Bus users must wear face coverings whilst travelling on the bus, unless they are exempt. You can find out more about the services during this time here [Coronavirus: Travelling to school in Lancashire - Lancashire County Council](#)

The school minibus will also be running as it was in November 2020. Again, bus users must wear face coverings whilst travelling and stay in the seats allocated to them.

If pupils are travelling on public buses, they are expected to wear face coverings unless they are exempt.

Where parents drive their children to school, we ask that they drop them off and pick them up at the turning point at the end of Crag Road and do not wait in the bus bay area.

COVID testing

Where we have your permission, we will continue to test children this week in school for their second and third time. Once this is done and we have further instructions on home testing, I will contact you to let you know how the next phase of the government's testing programme will function.

And finally...this has been a long and difficult road for all of us. However, as a school I feel we have come through these challenging times with much to be proud of and having learned a great deal about our own capabilities. All staff are delighted to be welcoming the pupils back and we look forward to getting them re-engaged with their learning and friends in school. Thank you for all you have done to support us in getting through this period of lockdown. I look forward to a more settled end to this academic year and leading further improvements in school.

Yours sincerely,

Dr N Walmsley
Principal

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