



# SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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**Executive Head teacher:** John Barnes

**Head of School:** Karen McSparron

20 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to give you the final details of our plan for pupils returning to school in September.

As you will be aware, the Government has asked that all KS3 pupils have 2 Lateral Flow tests before they return to school. This is voluntary but advisable to help prevent the spread of covid.

We are therefore offering a first test to **KS3 pupils** on Thursday, September 2nd and a second test on Monday, September 6th. Following this letter Year 7 parents and carers will receive an email asking them to complete a testing consent form. The testing will take place in the school hall and details are as follows:

## **Thursday, September 2nd**

**9.00 - 11 am - Year 8 students in school for Covid test & then home.**

Time	Y8 Student Group
9:00 - 9:30	Surnames A to E (inclusive)
9:30 - 10:00	Surnames F to K (inclusive)
10:00 - 10:30	Surnames L to R (inclusive)
10:30 - 11:00	Surnames S to Z (inclusive)

**11:30 - 1pm - Year 7 students in school for Covid test & then home.**

Time	Y7 Student Group
11:30 - 12:00	Surnames A to G (inclusive)
12:00 - 12:30	Surnames H to P (inclusive)
12.30 - 1:00	Surnames R to Z (inclusive)



Any KS3 pupils who are unable to attend during these time slots can attend between 2pm and 3.30pm.

### **Monday, September 6th**

**11.30am - 1 pm - Year 7 students in school for Covid test & then home.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Y7 Student Group</b>
11:30 - 12:00	Surnames A to G (inclusive)
12:00 - 12:30	Surnames H to P (inclusive)
12:30 - 1:00	Surnames R to Z (inclusive)

**2pm - 3.30pm - Year 8 students in school for Covid test & then home.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Y8 Student Group</b>
2:00- 2:30	Surnames A to G (inclusive)
2:30 - 3:00	Surnames H to P (inclusive)
3:00 - 3:30	Surnames R to Z (inclusive)

**Please note that if you have signed up for your child to be tested previously, you do not need to again.**

### **Tuesday, September 7th**

On Tuesday, September 7th, the school day will start at the normal time of 8.55am. Children should arrive no earlier than 8.45am, as there is no adult supervision on the yard before this time.

Once at school, the yard will continue to be zoned, at least in the short term, and children should stand in their year group area until they are lined up in their classes. They will enter school and sanitise their hands as they come in.

Y5 will spend the first day participating in the transition activities they missed before the summer to help them get to know their new classmates and settle in.

Y6,7 and 8 will be with their new form teacher for the first two lessons, getting their new timetables, planners etc. before going into their normal lessons for the rest of the day.

#### **Transport**

If your child requires a school bus to get to school, you should by now have applied for and received your child's bus pass. If you have not, then you should contact Northumberland County Council School Transport. The school has no direct connection with School Transport and any queries regarding this should be taken up with them directly. The bus pick up times will be included in the information they send you and will be the same as they were before the summer holidays.

In the first week of term, a member of staff will be at the bus-stops each morning to ensure all of the new starters know what to do.

### **No bubbles**

Children will no longer be in year group bubbles. They will move freely around the school and move to different classrooms and teachers throughout the day, depending on their timetable. To make this Covid safe, good personal hygiene habits are essential and the classrooms will be provided with tissues and anti-bacterial wipes to encourage this.

### **Break/Lunchtimes**

Initially, each year group will continue to be assigned a specific outdoor area for break and lunchtimes. They will inevitably mix with pupils from other year groups but this will be outdoors and risks will be much reduced. All pupils will be eating their lunch in the dining hall again at lunchtime. There will be two year groups in the hall at a time and then they will swap over. The rest of lunchtime will be spent outside in their designated area. As time goes on, the hope is that these restrictions will be relaxed.

The new Year 5 pupils, and any other new starters, will need to have their fingerprints recorded for the APP for school lunch, so they should bring a packed lunch for their first day. Those children who are entitled to free-school meals will have a packed lunch provided. Fingerprints will be taken on the first day for all the new pupils and all children should be able to have school lunch from Wednesday, September 8th.

### **Curriculum and Timetable**

We intend our curriculum and timetable to run as normal from September. Plans have been in place since March to identify gaps in pupils' skills/ knowledge and interventions were put in place to address any gaps for groups and individuals and this will continue into the coming academic year.

### **Uniform**

We expect **all aspects** of our uniform policy to be followed from September. This includes wearing the appropriate footwear and complying with other rules around jewellery, hair and makeup. We would really appreciate your assistance in helping us maintain our high standards and expectations in terms of uniform. A full uniform list is available on our website. There will be sanctions for those pupils who do not follow the uniform policy.

The PE changing rooms will still not be in use in the first half-term. On days where pupils have a PE lesson, they can continue to attend in their school PE kit (this must include plain black or navy jogging bottoms - but not leggings). From October half-term onwards, the changing rooms will be in use as the sports being played will potentially be muddy and pupils will need to change their clothes.

### **Equipment/Phones**

Your child should bring equipment for school and must have a pen, pencil ruler and rubber. They will be given a school planner and this must be taken home each night and brought in each morning. It is an essential means of home/school communication and it is important that pupils, parents and staff get back to using these as they were used pre-covid.

We discourage children from bringing phones into school, unless essential, and phones must not be used anywhere on the school grounds. If your child does need to bring a phone into school, it will be collected by their form teacher and returned at the end of school. Pupils found with phones during the school day will have them confiscated and an adult will be expected to collect them from the school office.

### **Extra Curricular Clubs/Activities**

Extra-curricular clubs and activities will be able to go ahead in the new term and we will send out more information regarding this in the coming weeks.

We look forward to, hopefully, a much more normal academic year at Seaton Sluice Middle School this year and to having all of our pupils back.

Regards,

Karen McSparron

Head of School