



# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

**Head of School:** Jonathan Souter

5 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Whytrig on Monday next week. Nearly a year on from the start of the first school closure, in many ways this period of lockdown has been a greater challenge for us all in many ways. Across our school population, children and staff have raised their game to ensure continuity of learning. However, I think it is reasonable to suggest that everyone is ready to get back to 'normal' and see everyone again in school on Monday.

On Tuesday we shared key information about your child's return to school and expectations around routines in school. If you have not already read this letter I would encourage you to please do so before Monday with your child. A copy of the letter can be found on our website at <https://svf.org.uk/whytrig-middle-school/wms-covid-19-updates-2021>. Staff will also spend the first part of Monday morning with the children revisiting routines and expectations. It is important to note that the highest standards of behaviour are expected. In particular, it is important that our pupils try to maintain a social distance of at least 2m at all times in order to prevent against the ongoing threat of coronavirus transmission within the school community and beyond.

Over the past two days covid lateral flow testing has been taking place on the Elsdon Avenue site. We are thankful to the team of staff and volunteers who have made this possible. It has been an efficient and effective operation! At Whytrig, we have tested 110 Key Stage 3 children (out of a total of 126) and staff too, all of them being negative results. This can give us all a lot of confidence as we come back together in school on Monday.

In order to prepare for lessons on Monday, there are some things that your child will have at home that they need to bring with them on Monday when they come in. Normal timetables resume. Please remember if Monday is a timetabled PE day for your child, they should arrive dressed in their PE kit. Some other resources that will be needed in lessons are:

#### Year 5

Power Maths Pupil Practice Books (5B) are needed for lessons and any Power Maths Textbooks that were borrowed should be returned.

#### Year 6

Power Maths Pupil Practice Books (6B) are needed for lessons and any Power Maths Textbooks that were borrowed should be returned.

#### Year 7

Skellig reading books should be returned as well as the reading tasks booklet, and the draft exercise books used for English work.

#### Year 8

The Twelfth Day of July and Across the Barricades reading books should be returned.

Some pupils will also need to have completed the following work in Google Classroom in preparation for English lessons next week:

- 'Point and Evidence' task table on Act 1, Sc 2 (Wk 4, Wed 27th & Thurs 28th January)
- Imagery in scenes up to and including Act 3, Sc1 doc (Wk 3, Mon 18th January)
- Examples of opposites in scenes up to and including Act 3, Sc 1 (Wk 2, Tues 12th January)

Finally, any Chromebooks that have been borrowed during lockdown should be returned on Monday with any charging cables.

For many of our children, coming back to school on Monday will just be something they get on with, like with so many other things children do. Some will be very excited about the prospect of being back. For some children they may be a little apprehensive or nervous. In order to gauge how the children are feeling about their return to school we have set a short survey in their Year Group Information Google Classroom to gather information which will help us to support them in their week(s) back in school. If your child has not already completed the survey, please encourage them to do so by going to the following webpage at <https://forms.gle/qkU2ZwRR5QwXJaAc9>. It should only take a few minutes to complete.

Finally, I just want to end by thanking you for all your collective efforts since Christmas (and over the last year). Hopefully now this will be the last time we ever have to do this and by working together and following the rules as a school community we can soon be enjoying the wider aspects of school life that we could before lockdown in 2020. Have a great weekend and please stay safe!

Kind regards,

Mr J K Souter

Head of School