



St. George's School

A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'
Headteacher: Mr G Warnock

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25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are safe and well.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, we are keen to get pupils back into the classroom as soon as possible, and as safely as possible. We welcome the chance to begin a structured return to face-to-face learning.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been doing everything possible to deliver high-quality learning whilst minimising the risks due to coronavirus, we will continue to do this.

One of the many safety measures that will be in place is the asymptomatic testing of pupils. In line with the latest government guidance pupils will be offered three tests at school, starting from **Monday 1st March**. The first two tests will be done before pupils return to face-to-face lessons. This means that pupils will continue to learn from home until their first face to face lessons begin.

Those pupils who are in our critical and vulnerable group will continue their onsite provision until their year group commence face to face teaching.

Please see the table below for the date each year group will undertake test 1, test 2 and commence face to face teaching.

Year Group	Date of test 1	Date of test 2	Date of face to face teaching (Normal school day)
10	01/03	08/03	09/03
7	02/03	09/03	10/03
8	03/03	10/03	11/03
9	04/03	11/03	12/03
11	05/03	12/03	15/03

Please note, if you have not already given us permission to test or to not test, by completing the google form, we need this as soon as possible. If you have told us that you do not want your child tested, your child will not arrive to school for testing date 1 or date 2. They will still attend the date of their first face to face session. <https://forms.gle/hF4VtdnnQdWdaTTv9>

The third test will take place in school week commencing 15th March. We have planned the testing process this way to maximise safety and minimise disruption to learning. We are able to deliver the

final test whilst pupils are learning face-to-face although there may be some minor disruption to learning whilst this takes place.

We appreciate that some pupils may find the testing process difficult. We would like to reassure you that our critical worker children have conducted many tests successfully. To help alleviate any concerns we have created a video of the testing process which will be shown during forthcoming morning meetings.

There will be a move towards ongoing home testing for pupils after they have had the three tests in school. After the third test, pupils will be supplied with test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. We will provide more details regarding the distribution of the home test kits and how the home testing will work as soon as possible. Please note: we are only able to provide home test kits to pupils who have had three supervised tests in school. If you have not given permission for school testing but you wish to have home testing, you must notify us as soon as possible at pastoralteam@cidari.co.uk

Week commencing Monday 1st March will begin our on-site testing. All parents and carers will be sent a reminder of when we will test your child over the next two weeks. Please see the table for the times that your child should arrive for testing. We are testing by alphabetical (preferred) surname: -

Surname/Time								
A-B	C-D	E-F	G-H	I-L	M-P	Q-S	T-W	X-Z
08:30-09:00	09:00-09:30	09:30-10:00	10:00-10:30	11:00-11:30	11:30-12:00	12:00-12:30	13:30-14:00	14:00-15:00

The testing is voluntary, but we strongly encourage all pupils to take part in the testing as it will help to keep the school and the wider community safe by identifying those people who are carrying the virus unknowingly. Rapid testing is a vital part of the Government's plan to suppress the virus in schools and colleges - this works best when as many people as possible 'opt in' to protect themselves and others. This will also help to mitigate our need to close bubbles.

Important: The testing programme at school is for pupils with **no symptoms**. Pupils must not come into school if they have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or if they are required to self-isolate for any other reason.

Pupils must come to school, have their test and leave immediately as we are still under lockdown measures. We will notify you if your child has tested positive within 30 minutes of taking the test. If

the test is positive, you will be required to book a PCR test. We will not notify you if the test is negative.

Our pastoral team will continue to liaise with you during week commencing the 1st and the 8th March. Please speak to them, contact our reception team or email pastoralstaff@cidari.co.uk if you have any concerns.

From the start date of their face to face return, pupils will follow their normal timetable in school. Teaching staff will no longer be delivering Google Classroom lessons for that year group from the commencement of face to face lessons.

We expect all pupils and staff to follow the latest government guidance and wear face coverings in classrooms and other teaching spaces. The three exceptions to the wearing of face coverings in indoor areas are: 1. Where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in sport or dance lessons. 2. For those who are exempt from wearing face coverings for medical reasons. 3. Those who rely on visual signals for communication. The new Government guidance states that face visors or face shields should no longer be used as an alternative to face coverings, as they have been shown not to be as effective in preventing aerosol transmission.

Finally, it is really good news that cases of COVID-19 are falling and the Government now feels that it is safe for pupils to return to on-site learning. However, recognising that cases are still relatively high, it is essential that we all carry on with the good habits of “hands, face, space” and self-isolating at the first sign of symptoms. We know that this has been successful in reducing the risk of transmission at school.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding. Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

G Warnock

Mr Warnock
Headteacher