



23rd February 2021

March Reopening

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday, as part of the Government's roadmap for easing restrictions, it was confirmed that all secondary students will start returning to school from 8 March 2021. This return will be phased to enable our initial offer of on-site asymptomatic testing to all students, during the first week, before they return to face to face teaching and learning in class. This offer will then be extended to include two further tests, once the initial round of testing has been completed.

During this most recent lockdown we have been successfully testing the staff, vulnerable children and the children of key workers who have been working and learning on site. As we upscale our testing plans over the next few days it is vital that we receive consent for all students who wish to take the Lateral Flow tests so we can plan accordingly. If you have not yet completed a consent form for your child, or confirmed that your child, if over 16 has completed their consent form, please do so by Thursday, 25 February 2021, at 5pm using this link:

www.toothillschool.co.uk/consent

In line with the guidance, we will prioritise the return to school of vulnerable children, the children of key workers, and year groups 10-13. Specific details of the return for your child will be shared with you on Monday, 1 March 2021.

Our priority remains the safety of all members of our school community and we have already started to revise and update our Risk Assessments in response to the announcement made yesterday. A reminder of our previous Covid secure protocols and the new amendments will be shared with you and your children early next week, and will be clarified and reinforced with staff and students as they return.

Strict routines and high standards will be fundamental to a successful and safe return to school for all students from 8 March 2021. We will spend time with students upon return reaffirming our high expectations as there will inevitably be such a need after such a lengthy time away from school. Central to our ethos at Toot Hill School is our pride in the school uniform. I am aware that students may have outgrown school clothing over the past two months and I consequently recommend that families utilise this time before school reopening to ensure children have the full school uniform. In addition, now is the time for students to grow out or decolourise any extreme haircuts acquired during the lockdown period.

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Executive Head Teacher: **Sandra Paley** BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd | Head of School: **Christopher Eardley** BSc (Hons), PGCE, PhD

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We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students and staff back into our classrooms and are truly grateful for your patience and support as we undertake the logistical challenges that this situation presents in order to return safely. Until then, our remote teaching and learning provision will remain as it currently stands and we will communicate our transition plans for this provision to you early next week, for week beginning 8 March 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Eardley', written in a cursive style.

Dr C Eardley
Head of School