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Dear Parent/Carer,

Next steps, returning to school from March 8th 2021

Following on from the Governmental announcement on 22 Feb 2021 that students will be returning to school from March 8th 2021 I wanted to share with you the broad principle as how this will happen at Bilton.

In preparation for our return I would like to draw your attention to a number of short but important information clips on our website.

Go to the home page.

Click on the purple banner 'Back to School, March 2021'.

Click on heading '8th March return: important information clips'.

Within this area you will find:

- Introduction from Headteacher
- Student Well Being and pastoral support
- Student Standards and expectations
- 8th March Return to School - The One-Way System (COVID 19 Mitigation)
- 8th March Return to School - Bilton LFD Testing

The DfE have recommended that all secondary school students undertake 3 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Tests on their return to school sites, and the separate communication that I sent out last week explained in detail the rationale and process by which we plan to undertake this at Bilton, this letter can also be found on the website. However, as we approach 8th March 2021 I wanted to outline the day-to-day arrangements at Bilton school.

Throughout the various phases of lock-down and re-opening during the past year our plans have incorporated the national and local guidance to mitigate the risk of the COVID 19 disease. We will continue to reflect the changing COVID landscape, always taking advice from our local Warwickshire Public Health England contact to provide a safe and effective educational provision in the circumstances.

Some of the arrangements that we had in place from Sept-Dec 2020 will remain in place from March 8th, these include:

- Separate canteen and social areas before school, at break and lunch.
- Staggered departure from school at the end of the day.
- Designated Year group toilets.

However, as students have been based in a limited number of classrooms there has been restricted opportunity to participate in practical activities in areas of the school e.g. Food Technology, Art, Resistant Materials and Science. In addition, teachers have not been able to teach in their departmental areas, with the necessary general resources for that subject. Therefore, in order to provide a full and rich curriculum we will be amending our arrangements so that students, rather than teachers move across the school site between lessons. This will allow students to attend all their lessons in the regular subject specific areas.

As students may have some fleeting contact with other students from other year groups as they make their way to and from lessons we will introduce the following changes to mitigate any risk:

- We will have a strict one-way system in place around the school site to allow the flow of student movements to mainly be one directional, so limiting the interaction between year groups.
- All students and staff will continue to wear masks in indoor communal areas and we strongly request that students wear them in the teaching spaces, except when doing PE.
- Desks and equipment will be wiped down at the end of each lesson with appropriate anti-Covid certified disinfectants within each teaching space.
- As well as our current practise of students sanitising their hands as they enter the site we will do the same at the start and end of each lesson.

These arrangements will be clearly explained to students during an extended tutor time on 8th March, where revised timetables will also be given out. **The school site will be open from 8:20am, and students should arrive by 8:40am on 8th March and go to the tutor room base that they went to before we broke up for Christmas.**

We have come to these change in arrangements following consultation with the Stowe Valley Trust, Warwickshire County Council and Government guidelines. However, we will always keep these arrangements under review and change them if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Chambers', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Tim Chambers
Headteacher