

4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I imagine that many parents are feeling relieved that this is the last week of home learning and children will be able to return to school and see their friends. However, I also appreciate that others may be feeling anxious about the prospect of children returning to the wider school community. We are sincerely looking forward to welcoming students back to school and we have spent this week ensuring that all our Covid secure arrangements are in place ready for the students' return.

Arrangements for the first day back in school

When students arrive in school we will ask them to stand in their form group, they will then need to enter the school via the first designated entrance, ensuring that they do not mix with other students who are not in their year group. Students will be seated in a temporary form room on the main corridor for the morning whilst they undertake form time activities during the testing period. This is likely to take the majority of the morning and students will not return to lessons until the year group has been tested. It may not be possible for students to attend break outside of the classroom so please ensure that students have a snack for break time on their first day back. If the testing continues into lunch time, students who have school meals will be delivered their lunches in the classroom. Once the year group has received their results they will return to their normal timetable. Students taking part in the initial testing will need to use the designated toilet facilities and will be unable to access other areas of the school until all the results are completed. All future testing will be conducted during lesson time and students can return to their lesson once tested.

If your child has PE on the day they return to school, they should wear their PE kit, if they have PE scheduled in the afternoon. If their PE lesson is scheduled in the morning, it is unlikely that testing will be finished by this time so they should wear their normal school uniform.

Some reminders to share with children

- Students must sit in their year group bubbles on school transport
- Students should try to adhere to social distancing wherever possible
- Please remember to order school meals via Scopay in advance of Monday.
- Students should bring their 15x 15 reading book or their KS4 English Literature texts to school on the first day back to use whilst awaiting their test result.
- Please ensure children have snacks and a water bottle on the first day back.
- Students will need to wear a facemask in the school building and on the commute from one building to another. They do not need to wear a facemask during social times outside or during PE or when seated to eat inside the main building. The school will be able to provide face masks for any child that has lost their own.

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- Students will be required to sit at a table to eat and no more than 6 children will be able to sit at one table.
- Students should be mindful that we are still in lockdown and should walk to school preferably alone, or in twos. Please avoid walking in large groups and students should be considerate of others in the community when walking to and from school.
- Students should wear their PE uniform on the days they have PE (with the exception of the first morning back). Please ensure this is the correct school PE uniform- no hoodies, labelled jogging bottoms or tops etc. All PE uniform should be plain navy only.
- We expect all students to be in their full Acle academy uniform. If you have any issues with uniform, please contact us in advance and we will try to help. We appreciate that children may have grown over this lockdown period and we do have some uniform supplies that we can loan.

LFD Testing in school

Thank you very much for your swift response to the LFD covid test consent form which has aided our organisation of the process. All comments have been noted and any students who have medical conditions will be supported.

We appreciate that many students will be feeling anxious about the testing process. To help alleviate any concerns, Mr Hart has produced a short video which runs through the testing process. This has been shared on google classroom year groups but can also be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/LNWR6KU1j0w>

In order to ensure the testing process runs smoothly we will pre-register those students for whom consent has been received on the NHS site first thing on the morning of their expected test date. If the student is subsequently absent or refuses or is unable to take their test we will record a VOID result, in which case you can disregard the NHS COVID-19 notification emails that you will receive.

Please note, if your child has tested positive within the last 90 days, they should not take part in the LFD testing process. This is because the LFD tests could indicate a false positive within 90 days. Please let us know if this is the case via the school office or info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk

Home test kits for students

We are due to receive home test kits for students on the week commencing the 15th March and will distribute these kits and details on how they should be used once we receive them.

Home test kits for households with school age children

The DFE have asked us to share the following information:

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online

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Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- *through your employer, if they offer testing to employees*
- *by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests*
- *by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most*

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Tests kits can be ordered online or collected from a test site- further details about how to order or collect these can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

If you have any further questions regarding the return to school, please ring the school office or email info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk

With best wishes



Helen Watts
Principal

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