

24 February 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you managed to have some time to switch off with family over the half term.

Following the announcements from the government on Monday evening, we were pleased to hear that we will soon be welcoming students back to face-to-face learning in school. Despite how well so many of them have coped this past half term with your support, we know that some have found this time very difficult. We are keen to get them back into the routine of being in school, in real classrooms and planning next steps in their learning.

The government's expectations on the return to school are as follows:

- All schools will return to face-to-face education from Monday 8 March.
- Schools will have discretion on how to phase the return of their students over the week beginning 8 March to allow them to be tested for Covid-19 on return.
- All secondary students will take coronavirus (COVID-19) tests as they return to the classroom from Monday 8 March.
- Participation in the testing is strongly encouraged and will help to give reassurance to our community, as well as supporting the ongoing reduction in the spread of coronavirus.
- Participating students must have one negative test result before they return to face-to-face lessons.
- After an initial programme of three tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home.
- Staff and students in secondary schools are advised to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained as a temporary extra measure, initially up to the Easter holidays.

Our plans for a phased return to school, combined with testing, are set out at the bottom of this letter. We will send further guidance at the end of the week with specific instructions around what steps need to be taken prior to students coming in for a test. An updated version of the family guidance and risk assessment will follow next week, along with guidance on how to conduct lateral flow tests at home.

It goes without saying that in order to organise and conduct the testing in a safe, orderly and timely manner, we will need your support to ensure your child meets their appointment time and follows all expected guidelines and instructions from staff. We appreciate that some students may feel a little

**The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:**

*“A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does”*

**Ofsted**



nervous about taking a test, we understand this, but please rest assured that we will have plenty of staff on hand to carefully support them through the process.

The Department for Education strongly recommends that students participate in the testing. If you have not already done so, can we now please ask that every family completes the consent form [here](#) for each of their children by Tuesday 2 March at 9.00 am. It is helpful to us to have a 100% response rate, even if you wish to decline the testing for your child(ren) and there is an option on the form for you to indicate this. Every student will be invited to attend an appointment.

Please be aware that a letter will be sent to you this week via the post detailing the time and date of the first test, along with information and guidance on registering and taking the test. It will also contain a registration card and three bar codes. If you have not received this letter by midday on Tuesday 2 March, please contact the school to arrange for a replacement card to be issued. It is essential for your child to pre-register and bring the registration card and barcodes on the day of their test.

Finally, in order to support staff in preparing to re-open the school, we will be making some changes to remote learning. Please see the table below for details alongside our testing and phased return information.

| Date   | Lessons   | Notes/Testing   |
|--|---|---|
| Up to and including Tuesday 2 March  | No change, live lessons and registration to continue via Teams                    |   |
| Wednesday 3 March  | Work set on Satchel:One   | Communication with teaching staff will be limited as they will be participating in re-opening meetings. |
| Thursday 4 – Friday 5 March  | Work set on Satchel:One   |   |
| Monday 8 March   | Work set on Satchel:One (all years)   | Years 10-13 come into school by appointment for COVID test #1 then go straight home.                    |
| Tuesday 9 March  | Year 10-13 return to lessons in school<br><br>Work set on Satchel:One (Years 7-9) | Years 7-9 come into school by appointment for COVID test #1 then go straight home.                      |
| Wednesday 10 March   | All year groups in school in lessons.   | No testing.   |
| Thursday 11 March  |   | Years 10-13 COVID test #2 in school   |
| Friday 12 March  |   | Years 7-9 COVID test #2 in school   |
| Monday 15 March  |   | Years 10-13 COVID test #3 in school   |
| Tuesday 16 March   |   | Years 7-9 COVID test #3 in school   |
| From this point onwards there will be no further scheduled testing in school and participating students will be given tests to conduct twice weekly at home. |   |   |



Headteacher: Ms Jo Meloni BA (Hons) NPQH

You will note from the above table that, contrary to our previously published INSET days, we will not be having an INSET day on Wednesday 10 March. We feel that this would be too disruptive at this moment in time and will move it to a date in the Summer term.

Thank you for your help and support in enabling us to safely welcome all students back to the school site as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



**Ms Jo Meloni**  
**Headteacher**

**The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:**

*“A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does”*

**Ofsted**



