



THE  
COWPLAIN  
SCHOOL

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

**Headteacher**

Mr IR Gates MA NPQH

Dear Parent

I am writing to inform you of our plans for all children to return to school next week, from 8<sup>th</sup> March. In doing so, I have therefore tried to summarise this important information as briefly as possible but I know you will understand it is necessarily quite complex; I would therefore ask you read the following information very carefully.

### 1) Dates for Test 1

As you are aware, the government has asked all secondary schools to administer 3 x Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) for children before they are given tests to complete at home. This is a huge undertaking and means that we will need to stagger the return of children over the first three days of next week. The plan for each year group's return is therefore as follows, with children initially arriving a tutor group at a time, wearing their full school uniform:

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March			
11WC	0830	10EW	1130
11JJ	0900	10OJ	1150
11JM	0930	10HP	1210
11LB	1000	10SS	1230
11JB	1030	10KP	1250
		10ML	1310
		10AV	1330
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March			
9CW	0830	8CD	1130
9JG	0900	8CJ	1150
9JT	0930	8NT	1210
9CR	1000	8ED	1230
9NH	1030	8SD	1250
		8IE	1310
		8RC	1330
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March			
7MK	0830	7AM	1130
7LB	0900	7WG	1200
7NH	0930	7AT	1230
7SG	1000		

For Years 8-11, children will attend on the date and time above, reporting directly to the Main Hall, and then wait in a supervised socially distanced way in the Sports Hall for 30 minutes until their test result is confirmed, before returning home. On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, Year 7 should attend at the time above, take their test and wait for 30 minutes and then go to their normal lessons for the remainder of the day. Of course, should a positive case be recorded, the affected child will isolate with our school Matron and parents will be immediately notified to collect him/her from school.

It is very important that you note the date and arrival time of your child and ensure he/she arrives in school at the specified time. I'm afraid, given the logistical challenges, it is impossible for us to change timings to suit individuals. If you are dropping your child off to school by car, please do so using the carpark by the nursery or you can wait there in your car for their return, which would be in about an hour.

## **2) Continuation of Remote Learning before full time lessons restart**

Online learning will therefore continue at the following times:

<b>Monday 8th</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>
Year 11 – periods 3,4,5	Year 9 – periods 3,4,5
Year 10 – periods 1,2	Year 8 – periods 1,2
Year 9 – periods 1-5	Year 7 – periods 1-5
Year 8 – periods 1-5	
Year 7 – periods 1-5	

## **3) Dates for return of full time lessons**

Full time lessons for each year group will commence at the following times:

Years 11 and 10 - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Years 9 and 8 – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Year 7 – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March

When children start their full time lessons on those dates, we will revert to the school day that was in place during the Autumn Term. Specifically;

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Finish Time</b>
Year 7	8.20	14.20
Year 8	8.40	14.40
Year 9	8.30	14.30
Year 10	8.50	14.50
Year 11	9.00	15.30 ( <i>15.00 on Thursdays</i> )

All the other control measures we successfully employed before Christmas will be reinstated, for example, year group learning communities, increased ventilation and staggered lunchtimes.

#### **4) Keyworker/Vulnerable Children**

Keyworker/vulnerable children who have been attending over the period of lockdown should continue to attend but will re-join their year group for testing when their peers attend i.e. Year 11 Monday morning, Year 10 Monday afternoon etc... and then return to their normal timetable when the rest of their year group does so.

#### **5) Schedule for Tests 2 and 3**

After the initial return to school the testing programme for tests 2 and 3 will be as follows:

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11	Year 10
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9	Year 8
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7	
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11	Year 10
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9	Year 8
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7	

After completion of their third test, children will receive test packs to self-administer at home.

#### **6) Consent Form – Reminder**

If you have not already done so, I strongly encourage you to complete a consent form by clicking on this link.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=N1AX4TFQX0iCrZXvL1JeyzzwCsIWVmVAiHliD8\\_QWtpUMFJSVTJLSVE1SDY4RDFTRVZJN1FKR0tQQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=N1AX4TFQX0iCrZXvL1JeyzzwCsIWVmVAiHliD8_QWtpUMFJSVTJLSVE1SDY4RDFTRVZJN1FKR0tQQi4u)

Self-administering the test can no way be described as the most pleasant experience but it only takes a few seconds and then gives your child, you and the school some reassurance that your child has a lesser chance of having the virus, although we must all remember that the tests cannot give a 100% accurate reading every time so social distancing measures are still vital. We have a dedicated and friendly staff who are all trained in administering the tests and have completed hundreds over the last half-term. They are on hand to guide your child through the process. However, should you not wish your child to take part in testing, he/she should attend school when his/her year group attends lessons fulltime (see section 3, above).

#### **7) Face coverings**

The government has stated that face coverings should now be worn in lessons as well as at all other times when social distancing is impossible. Therefore, please talk to your child about this and ensure he/she has at least one face covering, preferably a couple, available each day. We have received a limited batch of spare disposable masks from the government, and can supply them to students who forget on the day, but it is preferable that each child has his/her own personal face covering. Please make sure your child takes his/her face covering home to be washed or disposed of.

## **8) Temporary effect on normal provision**

I want to emphasise to you again that this testing is a further additional job that schools have been asked to do alongside our core purpose of delivering education. Therefore, for this almost two-week period of testing there will inevitably be some minor disruption to your child's learning. As well as children having to leave lessons for their tests, our testing team consists predominantly of LSAs and our maths/science tutors so not all lessons will be supported by those colleagues. Reception staff will also be involved. We also have a number of staff who are shielding or sick and will aim to cover those colleagues. Our aim is to complete the testing process as quickly and efficiently as possible and I trust you will support us during this period and understand that, whilst we will aim to deliver provision as close as we can to normal, things will be a little different for those couple of weeks.

Please take time to read this information carefully and contact your child's Pastoral Leader if you need any advice.

Yours sincerely

Mr I R Gates  
Headteacher