

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I will apologise in advance for the length of this letter, we have had a lot of information over the last week, I will do my best to summarise, and share links for you should you want further clarification.

All schools are now fully open to all children and young people from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Only those children and young people described as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) should remain at home. These children will continue to have learning sent home. If you have any questions please contact your child's tutor.

#### [Guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people](#)

We have had clear instructions NOT to authorise absence for children who are not classed as CEV but understand that a very small number of you may still be anxious. Please be assured that many staff have now received the vaccination so that SEN children can return to schools and we are still following national guidance on social distancing, bubbles, one way systems and reduced contact.

#### **TESTING**

Up until now, we have been testing all staff twice a week and all secondary aged young people (with consent) on their return. The testing of children and young people using a lateral flow test is a decision that parents and young people should make together where possible. If a family decide not to give consent, their children and young people can still attend Foxwood but we would ask you to support the testing for the greater good that it brings.

Secondary schools and Academies have now been advised to provide tests for staff and young people to complete at home. We can see the advantage of this as it gives us more time at Foxwood to focus on education; however, we have been really impressed by how well our young people have adapted to taking the tests at Foxwood and also see this as a real opportunity to learn and familiarise themselves with medical procedures in different environments. We also think that it takes some of the pressure off you at home, as the testing can sometimes be stressful. Because of this, we have decided to continue testing at Foxwood in the short term and will review at Easter. We can provide you with test kits should you wish to test at home.

All secondary aged children with consent will be tested 3 times starting in the week beginning 8th March. We will then continue to test twice a week from then onwards. We hope that some of our young people will be able to complete all or parts of the tests completely independently before the summer – they may end up helping you at home!

## FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are still important and can still reduce infection. Primary aged children do not need to use face coverings but because of the difficulty with social distancing and the layout of our building we are still asking those young people that can wear a face mask to continue to wear one. It is also likely that they will be asked to wear one on transport. The link below gives additional advice and information on exemptions.

[Face coverings](#)

## WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

This [guidance](#) for what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 has been amended to reflect the wider opening of schools and the associated arrangements for testing and the system of controls. You may find it useful.

## Symptoms of coronavirus

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a PCR test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

**a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

**a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

**a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

## What to do if you have symptoms

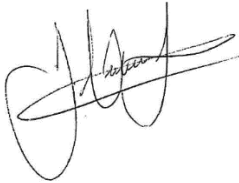
If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. You and anyone you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

[Get a test to check if you have coronavirus on GOV.UK](#)

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Hutchinson', written over a faint horizontal line.

**James Hutchinson**  
**Headteacher**