



5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to provide you with final details for our school reopening next week from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you to all parents and carers who have contacted school with questions and suggestions for our consideration. We have looked to reply to each query individually and have also included information for all parents within our communications today.

In addition to this letter, the following information is also provided for you:

- St Nicholas' March Reopening Plan for parents and carers
- Testing Arrangements and FAQs
- Learning Mentor Weekly Memo
- Northern Trains information for parents, carers and students
- A copy of our full Risk Assessment is available on our [school website](http://www.st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk).

### **The School Day**

As before Christmas, school will be open to students at 8.20am each morning. Students should proceed straight to their form bases on entering school site.

School will continue to finish from 3pm with a staggered departure for all year groups just as in the Advent Term. Full details can be found in the parent and carer March Reopening Plan guidance documentation attached.

### **Prevention and Control Measures**

St Nicholas has adapted its existing safety measures to include all the updated systems of controls outlined in the most recent [Government guidance](#) issued to schools on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January. As always, our primary aim is to ensure the safety of each and every member of our school community and all operational details can be found in the attached guidance booklet and within our risk assessment on the school website. Students will receive detailed information during their form period on their first day back at school and should you have any queries regarding any aspect of our Reopening Plan, please do contact me at school.



### **Reporting Coronavirus (Covid-19) Symptoms**

Should your child, or a member of their household (including someone in their [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#)) have one or more of the [coronavirus \(Covid-19\) symptoms](#) then **they must not come into school**. Please inform school via the usual channels of communication.

### **Reporting a Positive Test for Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

If your child has tested positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), then please inform us via the [‘reporting a case of Covid-10’](#) tab on the school website. A member of school staff will then contact you in person.

### **School Equipment**

As outlined in the most recent Government guidance, students should limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day. They should ensure that they are equipped with essentials such as their school bag, books, stationery (as they are not allowed to share equipment with others), PE kit as required, coats and of course a packed lunch if they require one. A glue stick will be provided to each student on their return so that they are able to fix any work completed at home into their school books and folders.

### **Transport**

School buses will be running as normal from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and face coverings are required when travelling unless your child is exempt. Train services will also be operating and return to school information has been provided by Northern Trains which is attached to this letter. A ParentPay communication was sent out yesterday to those parents whose child uses the managed bus service advising on payment arrangements for the rest of the Lent Term. Please contact the school Finance Officer should you have any queries.



## **School Testing Arrangements**

Sincere thanks to all families who have volunteered to participate in our on-site testing provision. Students will undertake their tests in the school Sports Hall and their first test will be offered either on their departure from their school bus in the morning or at another time scheduled during the school day. Full details have been provided in the documents attached to this letter and further Government guidance can be found [here](#).

## **Home Testing**

Those students who have participated with on-site testing will be provided with their home testing kits following their third on-site test. These kits can then be taken away for use at home in line with the instructions and guidance they contain. Further information from the Government can be found [here](#).

## **School Uniform**

School uniform should still be purchased via [Uniformity](#) and can continue to be delivered to school so that your child can take it home with them at the end of the school day. The same high standards of uniform and appearance will be expected of all students on their return to school and you should contact your child's Year Leader to discuss any uniform related matters.

## **School Attendance**

We are delighted that students are returning to school next week and school attendance is mandatory for all students following their phased return from the 8<sup>th</sup> March - the usual rules and procedures regarding school attendance will apply.

The advice for any students who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally. A copy of the letter from your GP or consultant should be sent in to school (a scanned copy or photo sent via email is suitable)

Advice from Public Health England is that any students who live with someone identified as CEV should still attend school as normal from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. They should be extremely conscious of ensuring safety measures such as hand washing is adhered to frequently. It is



vital that students in this position ensure they follow the school's system of controls to minimise risk. Any parent with concerns regarding a household member identified as CEV are asked to speak to Mr R Hunt at school to discuss their concerns.

In closing, I would once again like to offer sincere thanks on behalf of all the teachers and staff at St Nicholas Catholic High School, for all you have done to support your child's learning at home during school closure. We know that at times this may not have been the easiest of tasks - that there may have been times of frustration as well as many times of celebration. But collectively as parents, carers, teachers, teaching assistants, learning mentors, site and support staff and of course students, we have risen to the challenge gifted to us, and have done everything possible to sustain the welfare and progress of our young people together.

We look forward to a happy and successful return to school for all St Nicholas' students next week and if you have any questions, queries or concerns please do contact us in school.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Woods**  
Headteacher

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