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Headteacher: Mrs Emma Anderson

Chair of Governors: Mr Steve Chew

Our ref: CJ/SD/RCY

24 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Government's announcement on Monday 22 February 2021 we write this letter to you with a real sense of hope and optimism that better times lie ahead but it is vital that we continue our 'Allied Effort' to follow the guidance protect the NHS and ultimately save lives. Our approach will always follow the guidance to ensure we place our community's safety at the forefront of any decision making.

This will be our only planned letter this week and we will write to you early next week with full details of our wider re-opening plan. We are extremely excited that we will soon be able to have all our children back in school to focus on well-being, the mental health of our students and delivering our knowledge-rich curriculum.

Wider School Re-Opening Plans

As a school we need some time to study the guidance and create a plan for the wider re-opening of school from week commencing Monday 8 March 2021. This return will be staggered to enable testing to take place before students come back on site. Full details of our plans, including logistics for testing, will be shared in a letter early next week.

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Testing Consent Data Collection

Following the Government announcement students who have consented will be tested as part of our re-opening plans. The option to take a lateral flow test will significantly enhance the safety of everyone in our community and we are keen that all our students take up this offer so we can keep each other and our families safe. If you have not already done so can you please complete the testing consent form and send the paper copy back to school if your son/daughter is accessing our in-school provision or complete the Consent Form in the Forms section of Edulink. If you do not want your son/daughter to take part in school testing you do not need to complete the form.

Free School Meals

Due to the week commencing 8 March 2021 involving a staggered return for our students we will be offering a Free School Meal Voucher for this week. Families that claim Free School Meals are eligible for a food voucher to help support any time spent at home during the staggered return to school. Mercia Learning Trust will be issuing the Free School Meal Vouchers for the week commencing 8 March 2021. If you need any assistance with these vouchers please contact freeschoolmeals@merciatrust.co.uk.

Assessment Week

At Newfield School we follow an Assessment Cycle, which utilises both formative and summative assessment to offer all students the opportunity to demonstrate their curiosity and thirst for knowledge. It also allows us to determine students' long-term retention of knowledge, areas of strength and where further development may be necessary. In response to assessment we then establish, develop and adapt schemes of learning to ensure that we can maximise the progress of all students, so that they can achieve their very best.

Our next Assessment Week was calendared to take place during the week commencing Monday 8 March. However, due to students' return to face-to-face learning during this week we have taken the decision that students will not sit summative assessments during this half term. Nevertheless, we feel it is important to gain an understanding of students' knowledge and retention of information so that we can support them effectively upon their return to the classroom.

Therefore, over the next few weeks teachers will be utilising low-stakes activities through remote learning (week commencing Monday 1 March) and in face-to-face learning so that we are able to do this. Examples of the activities teacher may use include quizzes on Microsoft Forms, lesson starter activities or key long answer questions that are discussed and then answers. These activities will not be used to inform any group changes and will focus on the knowledge students have acquired, which means we can then adapt our upcoming teaching and curriculum moving forward.

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In the meantime, many thanks for all your support with your child's remote learning - it is much appreciated. Every lesson counts and your child's hard work and resilience through this second period of partial school closure will stand them in good stead for their return to school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Jenkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr C Jenkinson
Co-Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr Dawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr Dawson
Co-Headteacher