

7th February 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

As we begin the last week of the half-term there is a growing sense of optimism that children will be able to return to school in the not-too-distant future. Whilst I would like to thank my staff, students and families for what they have been able to achieve through our remote learning provision, there is no doubt that it is best if children are able to be in school and we all look forward to this happening. As things currently stand, this will begin from 8th March at the earliest and our expectation is that it will be a staggered return. However, at this stage nothing is confirmed. We will let you know more as soon as we know more.

Despite any uncertainty, we are fairly confident that the government's original plan of carrying out lateral flow testing amongst all students and staff will be a preliminary step to the return to school. The most up to date information from the Department for Education suggests that all staff and students should be offered two lateral flow tests (separated by three to four days) prior to full return. With that in mind I would like to urge all you to read the information we have [on-line about testing](#) and complete the consent form on [this link](#).

Earlier this week you will have received an email from Google Classrooms, inviting you to sign up for a "guardian summary" of the work your child is engaged with. We have done this because, following trials in various classrooms, many parents have found these summaries to be useful – but they are entirely optional. I have also been asked by Mr Nayar, our Head of Science, to alert you to the Tassomai parent webinars that are happening this week and which you may find useful. Please click [here](#) if you wish to sign up.

I am looking forward to the PSA AGM on Thursday 11th February when I will be discussing the school's Covid response and will also be joined by some colleagues to answer parental questions that are raised. Our panel will consist of Steve Hatch, our Business Manager who has oversight of the Lateral Flow Covid-19 testing programme, Jen Burniston our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Matt Dobrashian our SENCO, Tristan Ashman our digital safety lead and Elizabeth McCartney our specialist in children's mental health. You will receive more information about joining the event through the PSA and also the school during the coming week.

I am very pleased that our new timetable has been so welcomed, and appears to be working extremely well, with students and teachers finding the 45-minute lessons engaging and stimulating whilst also having some extra time for their own well-being and mental health. We have had good engagement with our extracurricular\enrichment links, ([Learning Resources](#) and [Broadening Horizons](#)), as well as the [Mental Health and Well Being](#) resources and I hope that students have also been engaged at home in activities that sustain their good health. With this

Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.



5-minute
showers



Drive
less



Lights
off



Local
produce



Recycle



Meat-free
meals



Zero-waste
fashion



Unplug



Refill and
reuse



Bring your
own bag

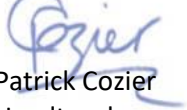
in mind you should be aware that homework will not be set for the coming half-term. We hope students, staff and families will be able to use this time to properly relax and recharge.

You may be aware that the government's national scheme for FSM supermarket vouchers will not operate over the half-term however the local authority has made a commitment to maintaining a provision. For the one week of half term, we will therefore be transferring to the Wonde system of super maker vouchers, and then return again to the national scheme which will remain in force until schools reopen. If your circumstances have changed and you believe you may be eligible for Free School Meals please visit the Haringey website [here](#).

Wishing you all the best for the coming week.

Take care and stay safe

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher