



# George Mitchell School

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11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Next week is half term and staff and children will now have spent six weeks in lockdown with most children learning remotely at home, with all the challenges that this entails. It is time for everyone to have a well-deserved break and get ready for the next half term which may see some children return to school. We have been advised that the earliest date this will happen is from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March but we will not know the details until the Prime Minister publishes his roadmap out of lockdown on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the day school starts again after the half term. I will write to you again after the half term with further details. I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, staff and parents/carers for their support for the school this half term and for all their hard work and effort in ensuring that children's learning is at the forefront of everything we do, particularly in these most challenging of circumstances.

When children start returning to school in the secondary, they will be given a Lateral Flow test before they start lessons. This is aimed at catching any asymptomatic carriers of the virus and minimising the risk of infection in the school. Staff are already being offered Lateral Flow tests weekly with the same intention. When we know which children will be returning, parents and carers of **secondary children** will be receiving a consent form that must be signed before we are able to carry out the test. Tests take place in the school hall and are carried out by school staff who have been trained by the local authority's Public Health team. The testing facility is supervised by myself and Scott Clark, Premises Manager.

When children eventually return to school, please support us to stop the spread of coronavirus by:

- Not sending your child into school if they have one of these symptoms
  - A new continuous cough
  - A temperature above 37.8
  - A loss of taste or smell
- Not sending siblings to school and getting a Covid test straight away
- Isolating family members for 10 days and informing the school immediately so we can carry out a risk assessment
- Always ensuring that your child has a mask on them if they are in years 7 or above. It is now mandatory for secondary children to wear a mask inside the building at all times
- Discussing with your child the importance of not mixing with other bubbles

I would like to wish all students and their families a restful half term holiday. Lessons start again on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

Kind regards,

Saeed Hussain  
Executive Headteacher

