



St. Anthony's

SPECIALIST SCHOOL ●●●

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Welcome to Term 4, where is the school year going, I ask? I trust you all had a good break last week. As I am sure you are aware the government announced on Monday the plans to come out of National Lockdown. Schools will therefore 're-open' to all pupils from the 8th March. St Anthony's, as a specialist provision, has not been closed to pupils with approximately 50% attending each day through this lockdown, so we will be looking forward to the return of pupils who have been learning remotely.

The Department for Education has provided the school with lots of guidance for the safe return of pupils to school, which we are working through to ensure that when all pupils are back, the school is as safe as we can make it.

This week, teachers have been contacting the parents and carers of those pupils working remotely to discuss their thoughts on their return to school. We will then be using this information to plan what is right for our school community. If you have any concerns, please contact the school as we wish to ensure we have addressed any issues that parents or carers may have.

To facilitate pupils' safe return **secondary aged pupils** will be having twice weekly tests. Asymptomatic cases comprise up to a third of all coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, and rapidly identifying and containing them will help stop individuals who carry the infection from unknowingly spreading it. Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) support the identification of people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. Those who test positive will then self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus.

Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s will support the wider return to face-to-face education.

Primary pupils do not need to have any tests so we expect all primary pupils to be in school on Monday 8th March

Secondary Pupils We are currently developing plans to test pupils the week of March 8th to complete two tests in school, with a third test to be done on Monday 15th March when we will then expect to have secondary pupils back in school. We will contact parents and carers next week with more information.

To facilitate the pupils return we will use the last three weeks of term 4 to access pupils learning and wellbeing, with a plan to have the school fully up and running in term 5.

I am confident that our pupils will demonstrate good resilience but if you or your child have any concerns please contact the school.

Finally, next Thursday 4th March is World Book Day. We will be celebrating the event by having a class competition.

Each class will make a world book day character costume and write a character description as a class. There will be prizes for the best costume. Pupils working remotely can still dress up on the day and send in photos.

Last year's costumes were amazing, so I look forward to seeing this years.



Sadly, there will be no group photo this year. But we will take plenty around the classrooms.

Robert Page
Headteacher