

15 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This half term has flown by so far!

It has been brilliant to have a relatively, interruption free half term and we have been really proud of the progress students have made.

I wanted to write to you today with a few updates as we rapidly approach the half term break.

Half term dates

Students will break up for half term on Friday 22nd October and return to school as normal on Monday 1st November 2021.

Coming up next term

Students will soon be receiving letters for Christmas trips for each year group. Please keep an eye out for these in your child's bag. We will send a text home to notify you that letters have been sent out.

We have moved to a system where all students will receive reports at the same time across all year groups. All data will be entered on Friday 12th November meaning that reports will be issued to you in the following week. More details to follow on this.

Lost property

We have vast amounts of unnamed lost property! In the week commencing Monday 18th October, any items of lost property since the start of term will be on display in Reception for parents or students to view and reclaim items belonging to them. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity, so please urge your children to come and have a look, or feel free to pop in to reception to check if you know you are missing any items of uniform.

Free School Meal Vouchers for October Half Term

We will be providing free school meal vouchers to those students who are entitled to receive them, over the half term break. This voucher will be for £15 for each applicable child and will be redeemable via the Hugg website. As this is the first time we have issued vouchers this academic year, everyone who wishes to claim a voucher will need to complete our form by [clicking here](#). We will check forms completed against entitlements. You should complete the form by 6pm on Tuesday 19th October 2021, it is really important you provide the correct data. Vouchers will then be issued at the beginning of the half term week.

Lateral flow testing

The lateral flow testing programme in schools was due for review by the Government at the end of September. The decision has been taken to continue to encourage people to lateral flow test twice weekly as we move in to the winter months.

We are able to continue provide lateral flow test kits for your child to use at home. Please read all of the information below, if you would like your child to collect lateral flow device tests kits from school, please [click here](#) to confirm your consent. Test kits will only be provided to students whose parents have completed the consent form and testing is completely voluntary.

If you have consented to home testing, please ensure that you speak to your child and instruct them that the test kits are kept in their bag until they reach home. We have had reports of the test kits being littered around the community after we have issued them and we would appreciate your help in preventing this.

If you have further questions, hopefully they are answered below.

I completed the form my child last year, do I need to do it again?

Yes, as this is a new academic year we require the data to be provided again, to confirm you still consent and to ensure we have the correct information.

My child has covid symptoms what should I do?

Any child displaying any of the main symptoms of covid MUST not come to school. Details of the symptoms can be found by clicking [here](#). If your child has any of these symptoms, you must not use a lateral flow test to check. Instead you must book a PCR test for them. You can click [here](#) to book a test or can dial 119 from any UK phone line instead.

How will the kits be issued to my child?

If you consented to your child being tested and they have attended at least one of their three appointments, your child will be able to pick up their test kits at the end of the school day on Wednesday. We will have stations set up for each year group to collect their kits as they leave school. They will be asked to sign for their kits. The test kits are uniquely numbered.

How many tests are in each kit?

There are 3 tests in each box.

How many times a week should my child be tested?

We ask that your child is tested twice a week and ask that you do this on Wednesday morning and Sunday evening.

How do the test kits work?

There is an instruction manual inside of all of the kits, however, the DfE have since updated their guidance and therefore, your child will be provided with an additional instruction booklet. It is important to note that your child should not eat for 30 minutes prior to the test to ensure accurate results. Please follow the instructions in the additional booklet, as opposed to the instructions inside the box. You can find the booklet online by clicking [here](#).

Can my child test themselves?

Students aged 11 should be tested by an adult. Those aged 12 – 17 should self-test, but may be supported by an adult if needed, and report with adult supervision. Students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed.

How do I log the results of the test?

All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace at www.gov.uk/report-covid-result and logged with school at www.nusa.org.uk/home-test-result.

What do I do if the results are positive?

If the test result is positive, please contact school on 0115 929 1492 between the hours of 7:30am and 4pm and on contact@nusa.org.uk outside of these hours. We will then get in touch regarding next steps. We would ask that students with a positive LFD tests result will need to

self- isolate in line with. They will also need to arrange a PCR test to confirm the result of the home test. Government guidance is available by clicking [here](#).

What if the results show as invalid?

In the unlikely event your child receives an 'invalid' result, they should test again straight away. If the second test is also 'invalid', your child should arrange for a PCR test.

How many test kits will we be given?

We will send your child home with two test kit boxes. This will be enough tests to last for 3 weeks. We will hand out additional test boxes each three weeks.

I hope you have a wonderful half term when it arrives.

Yours sincerely

Emma Howard
Head of School