

**Headteacher:  
Mrs M Davis**

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a very successful return to school this week. The boys are generally very pleased to be back and return to a more normal timetable. Thank you for accommodating the minor changes to start and end times of the day; this has helped ensure we can still continue social distancing and give time for testing years 7 to 11.

Thank you for your help and perseverance with the home testing kits we sent you for over the Easter. The boys are very proficient in completing the tests in school and I hope that went as smoothly as possible at home too.

Now we are back in school we will return to twice weekly in school testing for all staff and students. In fact, the school community has done so well in completing the tests that the school has been asked to take part in a National trial. Due to the success of our COVID-19 Coronavirus testing programme within school, we have been invited to take part in a national school testing pilot study. As a result, we will continue to test students and members of staff twice a week however, if a student or member of staff does test positive there will now be no need for anyone who has had close contact with that person to self-isolate, as we will introduce daily testing for 7 days. Therefore, boys will still be able to come to school, even if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. If either staff or student test positive themselves, they and only they, will still need to self-isolate for the statutory 10 days.

I attach an explanation sheet to this letter. The school is in the Trial Daily Contact Testing (Intervention Group) which means that should we have any positive cases in school we will be able to continue to have everyone in as long as they do the tests and where appropriate do PCR tests, which we can administer from school.

If your son is in year 7 to 11, you have already signed consent forms for testing. Could I please ask you to sign the one attached to this letter as well, which will allow your son to undergo 7 day testing if he is in contact with a positive case and thereby stay in school. Your support in assisting us with this pilot study is very much appreciated and will ensure we have fewer disruptions to our school schedules.

If you follow this link to our website

<https://cornfield.w-sussex.sch.uk/covid-19-daily-testing-trial/>

you will find a folder called Covid19 daily Testing Trial which contains all relevant information regarding the trial/ tests and data storage. Please send back your consent forms as soon as possible via School Ping; normal testing regime will continue next week for all staff and students.

As we enter the summer term we are very conscious that it is the final term for our year 11s, some of whom have been at the school for 7 years. We will be in contact with all parents individually re their final exams/tests as well as arrangements for leaving school and transitioning to college. As ever there is plenty of support from our Work Related Learning team and we endeavour to make the transition as smooth as possible for them.

The boys have returned very smartly in uniform and sporting some very tidy and much-needed haircuts! Thank you for encouraging your son to continue following school procedures regarding mask wearing and hand sanitising. It is important that we remember to keep distancing and cover faces when out and about; we do not want to unravel all the tremendous work and effort that has been made in keeping our school community safe.

Please get back to me if you have any concerns about the test trial or you have any difficulties accessing the information on our website. Please complete the consent form on School Ping and submit it.

Meanwhile, take advantage of the lovely weather and have a restful weekend!

Yours sincerely



**Mrs M Davis**  
**Headteacher**

If you have any queries or concerns at all, please contact your son's tutor or the main office [office@cornfieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@cornfieldschool.org.uk) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

If any of this information is not clear please telephone the school on 01903 731277 where someone will explain it to you

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Cornfield School is part of the Federation of Special Schools comprising Cornfield, Oak Grove, Palatine and Herons Dale

