



Head Teacher: Sarah Edwards

Springwater School
High Street,
Starbeck
Harrogate HG2 7LW

Tel 01423 883214
email: admin@springwater.n-yorks.sch.uk
School Fund Charity Number: 1096974

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Dear Parents and carers,

I am writing to you based on a letter from Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, written on June 18 2021.

The Prime Minister announced on 14 June that step 4 of the roadmap would have to be paused for up to four weeks because of the spread of the new variant.

With the increase in cases with variants of concern, it is important to continue regular testing in order to detect cases of coronavirus, stay ahead of the virus and keep covid out of the classroom.

This means that regular asymptomatic testing for all will continue, and we need you and your children who are in secondary school or sixth form to carry on testing at home, twice a week. Many families have already signed up for this and pupil tests can be conducted with help from a parent or carer. We have lots of supplies of test kits, so please let us know if you need more to be sent home. You can also join the testing programme if you **now** feel you are in a position to try this with your son/daughter at home. Please contact hnewton@springwater.n-yorks.sch.uk for test kits or further information.

As you know, testing has been playing a vital role in our response to the virus. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country. It feels great that there have been no bubble closures in school this term.

I want to thank you all for your efforts so far. I know that this has been an enormously challenging time for families, who have faced many pressures over the past 18 months. Your continued support in helping us fight the virus has been vital.



Secondary pupils and college students, households and their bubbles, along with school and college staff have now completed more than 50 million tests since these were introduced back in January. That really is an incredible number and we need you to continue your efforts.

It is wonderful to see all the children back in school and through your actions we can work together to keep everyone safe ensuring we can also keep your children in school with their friends.

Finally, as we approach the end of term we are planning some end of year activities. I am working closely with Heads of Department and the teachers to ensure that everything planned is risk assessed and that we follow the guidance issued by the Department for Education and North Yorkshire Health and Safety services. We will be avoiding large gatherings indoors so things might look a little different this year. Where we can, we will plan alternative events, particularly if they can be outdoors. We are keen to plan safe events in order to get to the end of term without any outbreaks which would lead to bubble closures. We know that the continuity we offer at school is important to your children and to you as parents and carers and I want to reassure you that our aim is to be as safe as we possibly can be in order to ensure the whole school is present on site right until the end of term!

Thank you for your ongoing support during the pandemic – staff here have been encouraged by your kind words and comments.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Edwards

Sarah Edwards
Headteacher

