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[**www.springfieldspecialschool.org.uk**](http://www.springfieldspecialschool.org.uk)

**Head of School: Diane Finney**

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**Head of School: Joan Wright**

 24th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will hopefully be aware that all schools are to re-open to all children and young people from the week beginning 8th March 2021. Of course, our two schools have been open to all children and young people throughout the latest lockdown however we do expect more children to return in light of the announcements this week. Indeed, it will be expected from the 8th March that all parents and carers ensure that their children attend school.

In terms of the latest guidance for keeping schools as safe, it has not changed significantly. The measures we have had in place to keep everyone safe remain appropriate. There are some amendments to make such as with face masks. Young people over the age of 11 and adults are already allowed to wear face masks when moving around the School building. We will now allow the wearing of face masks within classrooms if the individual chooses to do so.

Staff have been tested twice a week since January. Springfield staff are already testing themselves at home, whilst The Meadows Staff have continued to be tested in school. As the resources arrive in school in the next few weeks, The Meadows staff will also move to testing at home.

Testing is also advised for all young people over the age of 11. This has been happening in secondary schools with very small numbers of students for several weeks. The challenge of testing young people with disabilities is much more significant. Testing remains a personal choice. It cannot be forced on anyone and it will require the consent of parents and the individual.

The guidance for Secondary schools is to test all students who have been out of school as they return, in an effort to avoid new outbreaks. As most of our students have already been in school we do not believe at this point we need to do the same. Instead we intend to provide the home testing kits to families and ask that you test your child twice a week. Ideally this will be on a Sunday evening and a Wednesday evening. We will support families with training in how to carry out the tests if they need it.

Ahead of putting any of this into place we would like to get the views of parents and carers. Please tick the boxes below and sign to indicate you would be happy to agree to each statement. I would be pleased if you are able to return the slip back to school by Monday the 1st March 2021.

Once we have received your views and taken into consideration any further guidance from the DfE and the Manor Hall Academy Trust we will let you know of our next steps.

Kind regards



Christopher Best

Executive Head Teacher

Name of Student­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I would give consent for the testing of my son/daughter

I would carry out the testing at home

Signature of Parent/Carer­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_