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**ELLIS
GUILFORD
SCHOOL**
*Creative
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Trust*

Tuesday, 23rd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I thought I'd write following our return to school on Monday, 8th March 2021, to provide you with updates and information relating to our school.

Firstly, we have completed over 800 pupil COVID-19 Lateral Flow Tests including 2nd and 3rd tests for all year groups. All tests were completed in a very timely manner, and we were keen to 'get back to normal' as soon as we could. I'm pleased to say they were completed early last week which has resulted in very little disruption to the school. The pupils coped well with the tests, returning promptly to their lessons to continue their learning. All staff too were given home kits for self-testing, whilst those parents who opted for the test were also provided with additional test kits for use at home.

Whilst the vast majority have tested negative, we have had a very small number of pupils test positive at home. The COVID-19 strategy group at EGS responds instantly to any notification of a positive test and where appropriate, children have been sent home. In these circumstances, pupils should continue to access work on their Chromebook, following their normal timetable. We are now rolling out live lessons and those pupils in Year 7 will receive log in details to access their teachers in real time.

For pupils in Year 10, we will deliver a live lesson per day in core subjects only. The remainder of a pupil's learning can still take place remotely, through accessing the lessons on Google.

We are extremely grateful to the school's COVID-19 team who ensure any positive tests are dealt with swiftly and promptly and to staff for ensuring lessons are uploaded and available to our pupils.

We continue to ensure COVID-19 compliancy is maintained in the school. The vast majority of pupils are wearing masks and where this isn't the case, the school is able to provide one. Pupils have been exceptionally compliant.

Our Risk Assessment is updated regularly and is available to see on the school's website.



We wish those who have tested positive a speedy recovery and we look forward to the return of all pupils affected by this.

The pupils have been fantastic upon their return to school. We have all been impressed by their resilience and ability to 'just get on with it'. Thank you for all your support in ensuring that they arrive in full uniform, with their equipment and ready to learn.

As importantly, we want to make sure all our pupils arrive on time. Whilst the vast majority do, there is a small minority who are challenged by being punctual. As a school we are continuing to tackle this and I am delighted to say, attendance has improved, and I would urge all parents to make every effort to help your child attend on time. Given recent times, we would all agree it is more important than ever before that children return to the routines and structures of school.

I am delighted that we are now able to provide PE lessons as normal. We have done a Risk Assessment to ensure COVID-19 compliance and, like many schools now, pupils are able to enjoy some well need physical activity outside.

We have also created a new COVID-19 safe Dance studio, where pupils have their own individual space for Dance.

Slowly but safely, we are beginning to return to normal.

Thanks for all your continued support.

Mr Chris Keen
Principal