



Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College

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Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

General Update – 12th February 2021

I am writing to you to outline our school plans for after half term and update you on the saliva testing programme and some other school news.

Firstly, I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well. It has been a trying time so far again this year, but we live in hope for brighter times to come soon.

The school community is working hard to keep each other safe and well during this relentless pandemic. You will know that we have had to limit the number of children that we are safely able to have in school, and in line with our risk assessment, this approach needs to be continued for the weeks after half term up until the time that the Government decide that the 'R' rate has come down significantly enough for us to resume operations as normal. Therefore, I would ask that students who are currently learning from home continue to do so until that announcement is made. I am hopeful that the school will receive two weeks' notice of any change that would enable us to open fully, so we should all have a fortnight in which to prepare for the safe return of all of our students. It is anticipated that this might be from the 8th March 2021, but as soon as a decision is made, I will write to you again to confirm this. Those students in-school from 22nd February will be following their usual timetable and will be in their tutor groups to reduce the number of contacts where possible.

Thank you to all of you who have registered to be part of the saliva testing programme that we will shortly be rolling out here at school. The response from all of you has been incredible, with over 87 per cent of the whole school community agreeing to take part. This new approach to Covid-19 testing will enable us all to feel more secure about the safety of being in school. We were due to be rolled out on this programme for our return after half term, but unfortunately the laboratory in Southampton is being expanded and there will be a slight delay in the roll out. Southampton University has assured me that it is expected that we will start with saliva testing within two or three weeks of the original start date of 22nd February. I will keep you updated of any developments, but in the meantime we will continue to offer Lateral Flow Device testing to staff and students in the same way that we have been doing over the past six weeks. I would like to thank you for your patience with this.

Our Forest School is beginning to be installed over half term. This is an exciting addition to the school's facilities and will provide endless exciting curriculum opportunities for all of our students. It should be up and running from Easter.

Hopefully you will have read the letter from the Chair of Governors regarding the decision to reinstate the original name of the school. From September 2021 the school name will revert to Samuel Cody School. I will be announcing a competition to design a new school logo after all students are back in school. The new logo badge will be on new uniforms purchased soon after September but uniform with the old logo will still be acceptable. The school will provide new logo badges for anyone wanting to sew them onto existing uniform items free of charge.

You will remember that we cancelled an inset day earlier this term, and are planning to cancel another that was due to take place on Thursday 1st April. This will no longer take place but will be reinstated for

Friday 23rd July. Thus the last day of this academic year for students will be Thursday 22nd July. This is to ensure that essential staff training that has been missed during the year can be completed.

Finally, it remains for me to thank you for your continued support and kind comments and I hope that you all manage to have a good break over half term. I wish you and your families well.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shani Chinnappa', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
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