

Parent/Carer

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

Council House
Manor Square
Solihull West Midlands B91 3QB
www.solihull.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: TM/cd

Please ask for: Tim Browne
Date: 21 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank you for the ongoing support and understanding you have shown to our schools over the past academic year, which has really helped them manage and navigate through probably the most difficult year they have experienced due to the Coronavirus pandemic. With this in mind, and given we are approaching the summer holidays, we felt it important to share with you our expectations of schools as they return in September.

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, schools with secondary age pupils will be required to follow government guidance and test pupils for COVID upon their return. Therefore, all secondary school pupils should receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, three to five days apart which our schools in Solihull are preparing for at the moment.

The new term will commence in Solihull on the 2nd September, although we are aware that many schools will choose to have one or more of their allocated in-service training days at this time so the first day back for pupils may be the 6th or later. As you can appreciate, the scale of testing all pupils at the start of term is a significant challenge for schools but they are committed to ensuring your children are provided with the safest possible environment to learn in. Many schools will manage the logistics of this through having a staggered start to the first week back.

To support this endeavour, we request that pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

We would expect the finalised arrangements to be communicated to you through the usual channels towards the end of the summer break. School websites may also contain further information, so please check into these closer to the time.

Once again, we would like to acknowledge what a challenging time this has been for everyone and thank you all again for everything you have done. We can only hope this coming academic year sees a significant reduction in the disruption to your children's education.

Take care.

Yours faithfully

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

Tim Browne
**Interim Director of Children's Services and Skills
Solihull MBC.**