



31st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have been able to have an enjoyable break so far, despite last-minute changes to festive plans and, for many of you I am sure, work continuing throughout.

The Christmas holidays have not been without their fair share of speculation around schools, against a back-drop of rising coronavirus cases and a new strain. The update from the Education Secretary in the commons yesterday afternoon has led to yet another revision of our plans. I apologise on behalf of Mr Williamson for the last-minute disruption to your term ahead, however, we must do all we can to keep one another as safe as possible.

Firstly, I would like to make clear the arrangements for the staggered return to schools. The government has now moved all students' return to school back by a week. They have also said remote education need only be provided for exam groups in the first week and other groups 'where resources allow'; however, we intend to provide remote education for everybody from Tuesday 5th January onwards. At the end of this letter, I have revised the table sent in my communication at the start of the holidays to set out the timeline of events as clearly as possible. In essence:

1. all students will receive remote education in the week commencing 5th January;
2. all students will receive remote education in the week commencing 11th January, except Y11 and Y13 who will come into school;
3. all students will return to face-to-face teaching in the week commencing 18th January.

In the case of numbers 1) and 2), vulnerable students and children of critical workers are an exception and - once registered via our google form - can come into school.

Parents/Carers of vulnerable children or those that are critical workers

Thank you for already registering your son/daughter for face-to-face teaching if he/she is in Y7, 8, 9, 10 or 12. We will assume the existing list applies to the week commencing 11th January as well as week commencing 5th January unless you tell us otherwise. If you have not registered yet, it's not too late - simply fill in the google form attached to this correspondence.

For parents of students in Y11 and Y13, you now need to register your child for face-to-face teaching for the first week (from Tuesday 5th January) if you fall into one of the specified categories of a critical worker, or your child is classed as vulnerable (further information is available on gov.uk or in my previous letter which is available on our website). Again, please fill in the google form attached to this email and we will add him/her to the list.





Students attending school

Teaching timetables and the timings of the day will run in exactly the same way as they did before Christmas. Students should arrive at school as normal and attend their usual form room where they will be provided with information they need for the week ahead. Our risk assessment will continue to be deployed as it has been all through this academic year, with an emphasis on sanitising hands, cleaning high-touch areas, students forward-facing in class, breaks and lunches spent predominantly outside, and masks worn in communal areas.

Information about remote education

For students not attending school, lessons will be taught virtually throughout the remote education period; this includes form time which begins at 8.50 and is an opportunity for students to make contact with their tutor and resolve any issues they may have.

Following tutor time, lessons will run according to the students' normal timetable; they should be logged into the Google meet promptly at the start of the lesson using the code in the Google classroom or the one provided by their teacher. Attendance records will be kept. The lesson may not always run for the whole hour as a 'live' lesson. The teacher may teach content and then ask students to work independently on an associated task which does not require them to stay in the 'meet'. If this is the case, teachers will remain available throughout the hour to answer questions on the Google classroom stream or via email. If they need them, students have the school timings of the day stuck in their planner.

All of our students should be familiar with Google classroom by now; if not, they should contact their tutor, in the first instance, if they need any help.

I would like to remind parents/carers that you should not be participating in remote lessons and to be mindful of the fact that teachers will be teaching a 'blended' lesson whereby some students are present in the room alongside those who are engaging from home, which is no mean feat.

If you have any issues accessing the technology required for remoting learning, we urge you to get in touch as soon as possible so we can help. General enquiries can be directed to office@stokesleyschool.org and technical support requirements can be directed to itsupport@stokesleyschool.org. We will respond to queries during the training day on Monday 4th January.

Mass Testing in Schools

At this point, we have not made any firm plans regarding mass testing: that is a task for this week. With the kind agreement of our local Cadet Detachment, we have secured the use of

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the cadet building on our school grounds as a testing site; we now need to explore how we secure the staffing (and finance) to man the various roles the government recommends. I will be in touch in due course with further information and consent forms during next week. Also, if you are interested in volunteering to help out, I would love to hear from you!

Finally, do not forget to refer to the table on the next page to establish dates and methods of learning for your son/daughter over the coming weeks. I will also publish this letter on the website, alongside a short reminder at the top of the website home page. We look forward to seeing our students either virtually or in person on Tuesday 5th January.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher





When?	What?	Who?	Why?
Monday 4th January	An additional training day for staff - students will not attend school remotely or in person	All students	The government has given schools the opportunity to add this additional INSET day to help them prepare for mass testing
Tuesday 5th January - Friday 8th January	1. Face-to-face teaching for vulnerable children and children of critical workers* - they will attend school as normal.	Vulnerable children Children of critical workers*	Local and national infection rates are high. There is concern about a new more transmissible strain. Secondary schools have higher rates of infection than primary schools.
	2. Remote education for students who are not coming into school.	All students except vulnerable children Children of critical workers*	Vulnerable children are less likely to have an infrastructure that supports remote learning. Critical workers are key to the pandemic response.
Monday 11th January - Friday 15th January	1. Face-to-face teaching for exam groups, vulnerable children and children of critical workers* - they will attend school as normal	Y11 Y13 Vulnerable children Children of critical workers*	Exams are imminent, and following an already disruptive year, these groups are being prioritised for contact. Continued remote learning will, according to the government, allow more time to establish mass testing.
	2. Remote education for students who are not coming into school	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y12	
Monday 18th January	Return to school for all pupils	All students	To minimise disruption to education for any longer than necessary

