

Our Ref: HeadteacherSA: parental ltrs/POS/JOD
Date: 18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I thought my letter on Friday 11th would have been my final communication of the year but last night the DfE published guidance regarding a plan for a staggered return to school (see key points) following the Christmas holiday. We were not expecting the announcement, particularly at such late notice. The announcement focuses on both a staggered return and the use of lateral flow testing in schools in order to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

This document outlines the rollout of testing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/staggered-rollout-of-coronavirus-testing-for-secondary-schools-and-colleges>

A further set of guidance received confirms details of the staggered return:

Schools and Childcare Setting: return in January

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

Key Points:

- **Year 11** will attend school as normal from **Tuesday 5th January at 9.10am**.
- **Years 7-10** will remain at home and complete remote learning via TEAMS/Classcharts. This will combine live lessons and work set by staff on Classcharts. The live lessons will take place at the normal timetabled time.
- The school bus will run as normal should the need be there. Please telephone the company to confirm: Gerrards - 01477 500250
- All students will return to school on Monday 11th January (based on current guidance). Students should arrive to school at the staggered time they have arrived at since September:
 - Year 7 8.40am
 - Year 8 8.55am
 - Year 9 8.40am
 - Year 10 8.55am
 - Year 11 9.10am

Critical Worker/Vulnerable Children

Those children classed as vulnerable based on the criteria published in the guidance will be contacted individually to return on **Tuesday 5th January**.

Critical Workers – please inform school via enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk by 3.00pm Monday 21st December if you believe you are a Critical Worker (please include type of employment and employer/your name/your child's name). We will then review this to see if the eligibility criteria is met for a place in the on-site provision. Please be aware that a request should only be made when there is no other childcare option available.

This provision will run at normal school times and full school uniform should be worn each day by all students.

Mass Testing of Students and Staff

To support Public Health efforts during the return to school in January 2021, GOV.UK are offering secondary schools in England access to additional Covid-19 testing from the first week in January. This will help deliver the national priority of keeping as many students and teachers as possible in school beyond the start of term, minimising the spread of the virus and disruption caused by Covid-19 cases arising in schools.

We do not fully know how this will operate in practice yet and we await more detailed guidance. We are liaising and working with the Local Authority. As soon as I have more information and clarity I will update further.

Inset Days

As you know Monday 4th January was a designated Inset Day for staff. The focus of the day has now changed, and staff will be planning for remote learning and of course classes as normal and preparing for possible testing

DfE have agreed an extra Inset Day on 4th, so we will be allocating our initial Inset day at the end of the academic year.

Thanks again for all of your support.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Postlethwaite', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D Postlethwaite
Headteacher