

Re: Start of term for pupils – January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Season's greetings. I hope that you and your loved ones are still enjoying a peaceful holiday.

Schools and the pandemic have been discussed much in the press recently and I can confirm the details below following the information shared yesterday afternoon by the Secretary of State for Education.

The situation with schools is constantly being reviewed and so I will be in contact if anything changes.

To be clear, the Christmas holiday has not been extended. From Tuesday 5th January all pupils at the school will begin the term either onsite or remotely.

Week beginning 4th January:**Monday 4th January**

INSET day (no pupils onsite)

Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January

Vulnerable pupils, those with EHCPs and the children of key workers (onsite)

Pupils in Year 11 (learning remotely – full curriculum)

Pupils in Year 7 to Year 10 (learning remotely – limited curriculum – English, Science and Maths)

Week beginning 11th January:**Monday 11th January to Friday 15th January**

Vulnerable pupils, those with EHCPs and the children of key workers (onsite)

Pupils in Year 11 (onsite)

Pupils in Year 7 to Year 10 (learning remotely – full curriculum)

Week beginning 18th January:**Monday 18th January**

All pupils resume onsite learning

Mass testing in schools

On Friday 18th December, the Department for Education announced that schools will have access to thousands of lateral flow test kits in order to help identify asymptomatic Covid19 cases in school populations.

As you can imagine, this is a significant piece of work and one which can only work within the constraints of the school's limited capacity.

We have planned a number of stages in order to be able to increase testing for pupils at the school. The first stage involves gaining parental consent. Please read the attached leaflet provided by the Department for Education carefully, next week you will receive a DfE-approved consent form. You will need to state if you will give permission for your child to be tested for Covid19 at school and for their data to be processed.

Your child will be able to continue to attend school if you do not give consent to testing, as long as they are not displaying any recognised symptoms of Covid19.

At present, no testing will be taking place for pupils and staff as consent has not been sought and the training guidance has not yet been released by the Department of Education.

Remote learning

Before the Christmas break you were invited to comment on the school's remote learning offer. Many thanks to all of you who shared your thoughts. We also surveyed pupils again and the results will be shared with you as soon as we can. We continue to try to make our remote learning offer as inclusive and effective as possible. The vast majority of teaching staff will be delivering remote learning from the school site from Tuesday 5th January. Please continue to get in contact with the school with your views.

There will be a number of updates from the school and local authority over the next few days. Please be assured that we are doing all we can to ensure that any disruption to the education and positive school experience of our pupils is limited.

Wishing you the best for the new year,

Jessica McQuaid

Head Teacher



 Department for Education

Return dates for primary and secondary schools and colleges in England

Year group	w/c 4 Jan	w/c 11 Jan	w/c 18 Jan
Exam years (years 11 and 13)	Prioritise remote education	Return to school	Return to school
Primary (years 1-6)	Full return to school with some exceptions*	Full return to school with some exceptions*	Full return to school with some exceptions*
Secondary / college (years 7-10 and 12)	Remote education as resources permit	Remote education	Full return to school with some exceptions*
Primary / secondary vulnerable and critical worker	Return to school	Return to school	Return to school
Special	Return to school encouraged	Return to school	Return to school
Alternative provision	Return to school	Return to school	Return to school

* In some local areas, under the contingency framework students will have remote education except for exam years and vulnerable and critical worker children. Special schools for primary years should continue to allow pupils to attend full time.