



31st December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I continue to hope that you and those around you remain well and that you have been able to find some festive cheer in what has been an unusually different Christmas break for all of us.

Following on from my letter on the 18th December and in response to yesterday's government announcements I wanted to get in touch to provide you with an update on a number of key matters:

Key messages in this letter:

- **Our approach to the staggered return for students from Monday 4th January 2021**
- **Free School Meal Provision for students working remotely until Monday 18th January 2021**
- **An update on the rollout of mass Covid testing in schools from January 4th 2021**
- **Wiltshire Tier 3 Restrictions and Celebrating New Year Safely**
- **A reminder about Covid-19 Symptoms, Testing and Self Isolation**

Our approach to the staggered return for students from Monday 4th January 2021

Since my last letter to you on the 18th December you may have seen in the news that the government have confirmed that all secondary schools must have a staggered return for pupils at the start of next term as follows:

On the week commencing **4th January 2021**:

- **Only Vulnerable pupils and the children of Critical workers can return to school in person for on site supervised provision.** We ask that these students report to their Year Group Entry Gate at 8.25am where they will be met by a member of the school Leadership Team.
 - Vulnerable Pupils: Parents of children who meet the DfE's Vulnerable Pupil Criteria will be emailed directly to enquire if their child will be taking up the offer of on site supervision in the week commencing 4th January. If you believe your child does meet the vulnerable pupil criteria and you wish to take up the offer of on site supervised provision but you haven't received an email, please contact Mr Smith via csmith@corsham.wilts.sch.uk
 - Children of Critical workers: In order for us to arrange appropriate supervision and allocate sufficient resources to meet the need, parents who meet the DfE critical worker criteria (see below) who need to take up the offer of on site supervised provision for their children are asked to complete the following survey: [Survey - Click here to complete](#)

- Critical workers are those who work in:
 - Health and social care
 - Education and childcare
 - Key public services (including the justice system, religious staff, charities delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting)
 - Local and national government (those who are involved in delivering the coronavirus response or essential public services)
 - Food and other necessary goods
 - Public safety and national security
 - Transport
 - Utilities, communication and financial services

- **All other secondary year groups should not attend in the week beginning 4th January and will be offered remote education during the first week back of term.** Students following remote learning are reminded to check Microsoft Teams and Class Charts for remote learning resources. Full details of this will be sent separately in a letter from Mr Smith and Mrs Bartlett.

On the week commencing 11th January 2021:

- **Year 11 and Year 13 students return for face to face education** (in addition to Vulnerable Children and Children of Critical Workers)

- **All other secondary year groups should not attend in the week beginning 11th January and continue with remote education during the second week back of term.** Students following remote learning are reminded to check Microsoft Teams and Class Charts for remote learning resources. Full details of this will be sent separately in a letter from Mr Smith and Mrs Bartlett.

On the week commencing 18th January 2021:

- We look forward to welcoming **all pupils** back to school for face-to-face education.

Free School Meal Provision for students working remotely until Monday 11th or 18th January 2021

For students in receipt of Free School Meals who will not return to face to face education in school until 11th January or 18th January, we have extended the voucher system we set up over the Christmas period to include the first week and second week back if their year group continue to learn remotely.

An update on the rollout of mass Covid testing in schools from January 4th 2021

All schools with secondary age pupils (including special schools and alternative provision) will be able to test their pupils from the 4th January. Although strongly encouraged, this is not yet mandatory and schools have the discretion to start mass testing at any point once they have made the necessary logistical arrangements.

I fully support the principle of using mass testing and understand that the sooner schools can put these arrangements in place, the stronger our intervention will be to curb transmission chains of the virus and keep education provision open.

However, with very limited notice over the Christmas period, the logistics involved in getting the appropriate testing facilities set up; the required extra 14 staff members sourced and appropriately trained; and all associated information and required consent shared with staff, parents and pupils, it has been impossible to implement appropriate mass testing arrangements in time for January 4th. Once we have returned to school next week we will continue formulating our plans for the safe and effective introduction of mass testing that doesn't compromise or divert staff resources away from educating your children.

Wiltshire Tier 3 Restrictions and Celebrating New Year Safely



The Wiltshire Council local authority area has been confirmed as moving up to the COVID-19 Tier 3 'very high' category from 00:01 today (31 December).

This means that from today, greater restrictions will be introduced. They include:

- People must not socialise with anyone they do not live with or who is not in their support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- People must not meet socially in a private garden or most outdoor public venues with anybody they do not live with or do not have a support bubble with
- People can see friends and family in a group of up to six (limit includes children of any age) in some outdoor spaces including parks, beaches, countryside, forest, public gardens, allotments, grounds of a heritage site, outdoor sports courts and facilities, playground
- Hospitality settings, such as bars (including shisha bars), pubs, cafes, restaurants, and social clubs must close except for takeaway, delivery and click and collect services. This includes restaurants and bars within hotels or member's clubs.

Over the last seven days cases have continued to rise in Wiltshire which means the seven day rate of cases per 100,000 population currently stands at 155.4. This is compared to 99.6 per 100,000 for the previous seven days up to 21 December. I encourage our community to continue their efforts in helping to limit transmission by celebrating the New Year safely.

Please follow the Tier 3 Covid measures over the New Year period:

- Stay home
- You must not mix indoors with households who are not in your support bubble
- Avoid large gatherings of any kind
- When you're indoors, let fresh air in

A reminder about Covid-19 Symptoms, Testing, Self Isolation and Test & Trace

A reminder that it is essential that students self-isolate at home and book a coronavirus test if they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell

Testing can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. There is no need for other members of their household to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

COVID-19 test centres will be open throughout the Christmas and New Year period so we would encourage anyone with symptoms to book a test. The turnaround for test results has been very efficient recently so people shouldn't have to wait long for a result.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Students should also self isolate at home if someone in their household has developed the Covid-19 Symptoms and is awaiting the outcome of a Covid Test.

Further self isolation guidance information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Finally, with recent reports of increasing Covid-19 cases in our region I hope you can all remain in good health for the remainder of the holiday break and I look forward to welcoming back staff and students starting next week.

Take care,



Rod Bell
Headteacher