



31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update COVID-19

I am writing to give you an update on our start of term arrangements following the announcements made yesterday (Wednesday 30 December 2020) on national media, by Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary; you may recall that in my letter of 29 December 2020 I included the following – “I wish to stress that it may be possible that after sending this letter, the Government publish further information which may mean changes to what I have written here.” I wish to thank you for your continued support and appreciate that you must find the changes, at times, frustrating. In addition, I wish to thank those parents/carers who have written, following my letter of 29 December 2020, volunteering their support with the in-school testing programme. The key difference to my letter of 29 December 2020 is the arrangements for the start of term and the phased return of groups of pupils:

- Monday 4 January 2021** – school will reopen for pupils identified as vulnerable, those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and the children of critical (key) workers. These pupils will return either to our Designated Specialist Provision (DSP) or to their Year Group bubble within the learning zone established from September 2020
- Monday 11 January 2021** – pupils in Years 11 and 13 are to return to school as usual
- Monday 18 January 2021** – pupils in all other year groups to also return to school as usual

The reason for a one-week delay to the return of Years 11 and 13 is to support the establishing of the in-school testing programme; we are to expect delivery of the testing kits from Monday 4 January 2021. I am aware that Bradford Local Authority is working with a secondary school to establish the protocol for testing, for others to follow. The delayed return is to also monitor the number of positive cases for COVID-19 across the different regions nationally.

I have, this morning, written to all members of staff to outline the plans for our reopening and to look at ways we can overcome the challenges of a phased return, continuation of education (including remote learning) and the potential impact of mass testing. It is important that parents/carers are aware that for pupils who are eligible to return during the first week of term, pupils will remain in their year group bubble; those pupils in our DSP will return to either the KS3 or KS4 bubble. We will continue to implement the timetable we have already established for each year group – the key difference will be that some groups within a subject e.g. set 2 and set 3 maths may be combined depending upon numbers of pupils. This also allows for members of staff to meet to review Schemes of Learning i.e. planned lesson content and to review how to deliver this through a combination of in-school lessons, live remote lessons, and uploaded content to Microsoft Teams. In addition, it is the intention to provide time for Form Tutors and others to contact members of their form group to have a welfare check following the festive break. Pupils will follow the school timetabled times for each individual year group and therefore break time and lunch time will still be the same as last term.

Apart from the change to the start of term, much of my letter of 29 December 2020 still applies regarding:

- Pupils eligible to return from 4 January 2021
- Pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals
- Pupils who require support to contact enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk
- Pupils with mental health concerns to contact their year team
- Further information on in-school testing, including permission letters

Below, I include the links to the information provide by the Department for Education (DfE):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges>

Implementation of protective measures

In planning for full reopening of school in September we followed the advice and guidance from the DfE to ensure we comply with the protective measures which are:

- To advise anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 to not attend school
- Wear a face covering in school
- Clean hands regularly
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by providing tissues
- Introduce enhanced cleaning
- Minimise contact and have in place social distancing where possible
- Keep occupied spaces ventilated

These protective measures have been in place since reopening in September and will continue to remain in place

If you have any concerns about any of what is contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. As always, I wish to thank you for your continued support as we work effectively together in these challenging times.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the start of the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel

Headteacher