

04 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Staggered Return of Students to School – Week Beginning 04 January

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family and safe and happy New Year.

Further to my letter dated 31 December, I am writing to confirm that the school site is open from Tuesday 05 January to Friday 08 January for those pupils who are vulnerable and the children of critical workers only. Eligible pupils' parents will have received direct notification of this; please contact the school should you have any queries regarding your child. Remote learning is being provided for all other pupils:

<https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/learning/remote-learning>

Pupils attending the site this week should go directly to lesson 1 which starts at 9am, then follow their timetable and go to their usual classrooms. This means that they will be arriving a few minutes later than normal and we would advise that they wear their face masks from as soon as they arrive at their designated school gate, please. Kindly note that the school canteen is not open this week and so pupils will need to bring a packed lunch and snacks for the day. Free school meal vouchers have been provided for eligible families.

Whether your child is returning to the school site this week or slightly later in the term, we would be very grateful if you would take the time to remind them of the basic steps that they should be taking to reduce the risks to themselves and others, including:

- Regular and thorough handwashing with soap and water in addition to using alcohol hand sanitiser
- Having with them clean tissues and always practising good respiratory hygiene – the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Wearing their face mask when moving around the premises and in all communal areas
- Taking care not to share their equipment, for example pens, or snacks etc. with friends/others
- Taking care to follow classroom safety protocols, for example using alcohol wipes to clean keyboards
- Maintaining social distancing wherever possible, using the one way system and taking care not to have contact with those outside of their year 'bubble'
- Following the local tier expectations outside of school:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home>



Of course, we also need to ask that pupils do not attend school should they have one or more of the COVID19 symptoms or have tested positive in (at least) the last 10 days. If your child has symptoms, please follow the self-isolation guidance and arrange for them to have a test. The key symptoms of COVID19 are:

- high temperature
- new, continuous cough
- loss/change to sense of taste or smell

Further information regarding COVID19 is available on the website:

<https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/school-life/coronavirus-information>

Uniform – Pupils should wear full school uniform as normal. We are keeping indoor spaces as well ventilated as possible and, unless it is raining, it is best for pupils to spend their recreational time outside in the fresh air. It is therefore recommended that pupils have suitable coats and outerwear with them for the winter months; pupils may also want to consider wearing additional layers under their uniform or bringing an additional plain black cardigan/jumper (not hoodie) to wear over their uniform in class if they particularly ‘feel the cold’.

Clinically extremely vulnerable children - Shielding advice is currently in place in tier 4 areas, and so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, are still able to attend school in all local restriction tiers in line with the phased return expectations.

Government guidance – The Government has recently updated its guidance for parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

You will be aware from recent reports in the media that there are a number of pressures currently affecting all schools with respect to the arrangements for the start of term in January. Notably, a number of the professional associations and unions that represent school staff have been raising concerns regarding the government's plans for reopening this term in light of increasing rates of COVID19 transmission in the community and raising questions regarding mass testing. Governors are keeping all arrangements under review in the light of local and national changes and any updates will be communicated as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Ms S F Spivey
CEO, Headteacher