



31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term 2021 - Staggered Return of Students to School

I hope that you have been able to enjoy the Christmas period despite the current restrictions and the concern regarding how the new variant of COVID19 is spreading in our region.

As you are probably aware, yesterday afternoon the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced that due to COVID19 case rates rising across the country, the government will now begin applying the contingency framework for education settings and push back the staggered return for secondary schools and colleges by one week. Ostensibly, this is to give more time for the rollout of COVID19 testing in schools. His full statement can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-out-school-contingency-plans-for-england>

Updated guidance from the DfE, published yesterday evening, is that:

- *during the first week of term, beginning on or just after 4 January, secondary schools and colleges will focus on the rollout of testing to help find asymptomatic cases. They will provide face-to-face education for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, and prioritise resources for remote education for exam year groups in line with what they would receive in class and to all other years as resources permit*
- *during the second week of term, beginning on 11 January, secondary schools and colleges will start their programme of testing, prioritising staff, those students in schools and colleges and the exam cohorts. Schools and colleges will be able to bring students back to face-to-face tuition as testing is rolled out. Remote education will be provided to all pupils this week prior to return to school or college*
- *all students will return to secondary schools and colleges for face-to-face education by 18 January*

In summary, for Springfield's students this means:

Monday, 04 January – INSET day (staff only)

Tuesday, 05 January to Friday, 08 January

Only those students (in all year groups) who are classified as vulnerable or who are the children of critical workers may attend the school site; they will have access to similar work to those accessing remote education from home.

Families who are eligible for this provision will be notified of this under separate cover prior to the start of term if they have not received notification already. (A polite reminder that critical workers need to send a photo of their id badge /equivalent to keyworker@springfield.uk.net ASAP if they wish their child attend, please.)

All other students should access remote education via the Google Classroom system. General information regarding remote learning is posted on the school website: <https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/learning/remote-learning>

Monday, 11 January to Friday, 15 January

As above.

In addition, Year 11 students commence a phased return to their normal timetable. We will clarify arrangements and publish further details regarding any COVID19 testing regime/rota when this information is available.

Monday, 18 January onwards

All students return to school to their normal timetables. Again, we will publish further details regarding any COVID19 testing regime/rota when this information is available.

Onsite COVID 19 Testing

We anticipate that families will have a number of queries regarding the government's intended programme of COVID19 testing at schools. While our understanding is that this scheme is not mandatory, the school will be working to support this initiative where possible. However, governors will need to be assured that the school has received the appropriate equipment, training and other resources required to deliver this safely and effectively if it is to be implemented within our school community.

We will share further information with families as it is received and also post this on the Coronavirus Information section of the school website: <https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/school-life/coronavirus-information>

Volunteers

If you are interesting in volunteering to support with the onsite testing process then please visit <https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/work-for-us/669-covid-19-testing-volunteers-require> for more information.

I am mindful that this further change has come late in the day for families and staff and recognise that this creates additional inconvenience and stresses for all. We thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate this difficult time and look forward to students returning to the school site again in due course.

In the meantime, I would take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S F Spivey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ms S F Spivey
CEO, Headteacher