



St. John's Church of England Middle School

1st January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians

I hope you all had an enjoyable and healthy festive break and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy New Year. Let's hope we can look forward to a brighter and more normal year in the months to come, but for now I would like to confirm arrangements for the start of the Spring Term.

Following the announcement from the Government outlining changes to start of term and the intention that all schools will be tasked with rolling out mass Covid-19 testing, I can confirm the following arrangements;

For Years 5 and 6, children will attend school as normal from Monday 4th January, following a normal timetable. Breakfast club and afterschool club will run as normal, but this may be subject to change if further guidance is issued regarding shielding or vulnerable adults.

For Years 7 and 8, onsite education will only be available for children of critical workers and those students who are identified as vulnerable. Please find the criteria below:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
- A child whose parent is a critical worker (please ensure you have indicated your eligibility by returning the form sent out to all parents on Wednesday evening).

The remainder of Years 7 and 8 will be taught remotely from **Tuesday 5th January** until **Friday 15th January** and will be expected to return to school on **Monday 18th January**. Pupils will access live lessons on Zoom, following their usual school timetable with Zoom codes sent to them on epraise by their subject teachers. We are extending our Zoom lesson provision to include English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, RE, French and PSCHE. Please note that pupils may have to wait in the waiting room for a few minutes before the lessons commence, as staff have to travel to the classroom, log onto their devices, in addition to organise the students who are physically present with them in the classroom. Lessons may not run for the whole 55 minutes and epraise will be used to send any materials to facilitate the lesson. All work needs to be kept and given to the subject teacher on the pupils return to school.

The Government also announced it will be mandatory for all schools to offer students the opportunity to have a Lateral Flow Test to further mitigate against the transmission of Covid-19. As a Middle School with two year groups attending school, limited space and no surplus staff the logistics of such testing is proving to be challenging, to say the least. I can confirm that next week we will be using the time to plan for the implementation of the Lateral Flow tests for our students and staff. I have been informed that schools will be receiving Standard Operating Procedures, Training Videos and the Lateral Flow Tests over the coming days. Once I am satisfied that we have received all the necessary information and have the tests stored in school, I will be writing to parents early next week with further details on how we intend to proceed regarding the Lateral Flow Tests at St John's CE Middle. Please note that students will be expected to attend school from Monday 18th January regardless if they have had the test or not.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Elwell
Head of School

St. John's Church of England Middle School Academy

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