

December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Return to school in January 2021 – key dates**

I am writing further to the announcements made yesterday by the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister about pupils' return to school in January 2021.

**There will be a staggered return to school in January 2021 for all pupils**

The reason for the staggered return is to enable schools to set up the mass testing programme that is designed to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 and break the chains of transmission.

This programme is designed to enable us to keep more children in education and reduce the need for large groups of pupils to self-isolate if a positive case is detected.

Details of the key dates over the coming weeks are given below:

<b>Week commencing</b>	<b>Details</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Only Vulnerable children & the children of critical workers attend school for face-to-face education  <b>All other</b> pupils receive remote education as per their normal timetable using Microsoft Teams
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 pupils return for face-to-face education  Vulnerable children & the children of critical workers continue to attend  Year 7 to 10 pupils continue to receive remote education at home
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 7 to 10 pupils return for face-to-face education

If you are a **critical worker** (see link at the end of this letter for further details as to who is a critical worker), please complete this short form to register your child for in school education – critical workers please click on the link below or copy into your browser search bar.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CHiIGOEprE6Arbqd4Tc1JdbzQt6QVWJHgWcSE6HnEfBUOUZDTUVPMDZGRE5MQIZCQTdIMIpUNDJMVC4u>

**Wey Valley Academy**

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

Rob Russell, BEd (Hons), Principal

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## Remote Learning

In order to ensure pupils can access remote education, please check your child can log into their school account.

Support is available on the academy website follow this link or on the website go to Pupils / Remote Learning <http://weyvalley-academy.co.uk/pupils/remote-learning/>

If they are still having problems and cannot logon to TEAMS, they should email [Tibbeya@weyvalley-academy.co.uk](mailto:Tibbeya@weyvalley-academy.co.uk) or if any other support is required regarding remote education, please email [parkesl@weyvalley-academy.co.uk](mailto:parkesl@weyvalley-academy.co.uk)

## Testing

During the week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, I will be working with colleagues to set up the Covid19 Lateral Flow testing programme at the Wey Valley Academy and will write to you with further details about the programme.

There will be a detailed letter explaining the process and an online consent form for parents and carers to complete, stating whether or not you give consent for your child to be tested.

Please be aware that whilst we are encouraging every parent and child to take part in the programme, participation is voluntary.

It must also be stated that these in lateral flow tests will be for asymptomatic children, anyone displaying symptoms must not come into school and should follow the normal procedures of isolating immediately and booking a PCR test at a local testing centre.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. I realise that the notice given to parents and carers to adapt to this revised timeline is less than ideal but I am grateful for your understanding that these changes are in response to rapidly changing national events.

I will be in contact again soon.

With very best wishes for a happy and healthy new year to you and your family.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell

Critical Worker Link to DfE Website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

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