

January 28th 2021

Dear Parents, Carers

**Re: continued school closures and half term arrangements**

I am writing to confirm that further to the Prime Minister's recent announcement, schools will remain closed to all pupils other than vulnerable children and the children of key workers until Monday 8 March at the earliest.

No return date has as yet been confirmed. As soon as further details are available, I will contact you.

**The Government has also advised that school will close completely during half term.**

Please see below the updated information from the Department for Education regarding school closures:

**Prime Minister's statement on the national lockdown position**

*Today [27 January], the Prime Minister has announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.*

*If the Government achieves its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15 February then those groups will have developed immunity from the virus around three weeks later, that is by 8 March. It is for this reason that we hope it will therefore be safe to commence the reopening of schools from Monday 8 March.*

*Education settings, as well as students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education.*

*Schools and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now. All other pupils will continue to receive high quality remote education at home. This is in line with the wider national lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus and respond quickly to the new variant.*

I realise that this is disappointing news. Nonetheless, it is helpful to have a provisional timeframe in place.

Please can I urge you to ensure that your child engages fully with their remote education at this point in time. I understand that this is a challenging experience for many of us, but I am convinced that working together is the best way to support pupils. **If you need any support regarding your child's education, please contact us at the earliest opportunity.**

**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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### **Laptops and Data**

We have had a few more laptops arrive, so please contact Mrs Parkes [parkesl@weyvalley-avademy.co.uk](mailto:parkesl@weyvalley-avademy.co.uk) if you require a loan of a school laptop.

The government has linked with mobile phone companies to assist students struggling to access the internet. I have sent off all the details of the students whose parents applied for this and hopefully you will hear soon if you are to get the data increase as your provider will contact you directly. This is not run by the schools and apart from sending off the information we have no other involvement.

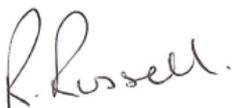
I do have a small supply of 30gb data sim cards from Vodafone that can be used in phones or tablets. If you are unable to access the internet and have a low data allowance, please contact the academy, [parkesl@weyvalley-avademy.co.uk](mailto:parkesl@weyvalley-avademy.co.uk), as we may be able to assist you by providing you with one of these SIM cards (data only you cannot make calls with them). They are 4G cards so you will need to have a strong 4G reception. Each card lasts 3 months or until the 30GB of data is used up.

### **Stationery equipment for students**

I have ordered some stationery (pens, paper etc) and intend to make up packs to distribute to children who need them. We will travel into the community in the school minibus to a series of pre-determined collection points so any students requiring equipment to support their work from home can come and collect a pack. As soon as the stationery arrives and the packs are together, we will send out details of times and locations.

Thank you for all that you and your family are doing at this time in a continuing and collective national endeavour.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell  
Principal

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