

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Families,

I apologise for writing out again but you will be aware of some last minute announcements from the government yesterday regarding mass Covid testing in schools and a staggered start to term for students.

To be honest with you all we were flabbergasted to see the plans announced on the BBC. We had been given no indication that these plans were coming into effect. Guidelines and plans are being changed and updated almost hourly. I will outline things as I understand them at this moment:

- The government wants regular testing of both staff and students from 4<sup>th</sup> January.
- Only year 11, vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will come on site w/c 4<sup>th</sup> January.
- Students in years 7-10 will access their learning remotely and return on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

What does this mean to us?

- At this stage we do not think we will be able to have a testing system on site for 4<sup>th</sup> January. We might get more information over Christmas but we are not planning on testing students as they return. I will update you if this situation changes before 4<sup>th</sup> January.

We would, of course, not run any testing programme without first getting permission from home. In reality, this would need to happen in January.

Please do not panic, there would be no circumstance where your child would be forced to have a test against your wishes.

Who comes to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January?

- Year 11 students – PLEASE ensure all young people are not mixing after 27<sup>th</sup> December. This is vital to slowing down infections in school and the community. Please do not send any child with Covid symptoms at that time, or if anyone at home has Covid symptoms.
- Children of critical workers.

The definitions of critical workers are the same as during the first lockdown. Please follow this link to check <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you meet the criteria and require a place in school for your child for the week of 4<sup>th</sup> January please email [covid19@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk) by 23<sup>rd</sup> December if possible. I understand there may be shift changes at the last minute; please keep us updated via the Covid email.

- Vulnerable children – families will be contacted individually.

Please note any critical worker children or vulnerable children coming in to school that week will be kept in year bubbles and will access their lesson on the computer in the same way students do from home.

Staff will be in school and teaching, but we will be running all year 7 – 10 lessons through Microsoft Teams. We will send out reminders about accessing Teams and timetables etc. just before the 4<sup>th</sup> January.

I can only apologise for how last minute this information is. I must warn you that I think it could still change significantly over the next two weeks. I will, of course, write out to you again over the holiday with any further changes. I will try to wait until the weekend we return as there could be changes right up to the last minute.

My personal view is that this move to home learning is to minimise mass mixing the week after people have mixed at Christmas. The government will be very concerned, as we are, about infection rates spiralling out of control in January. With this in mind, please do avoid any mixing after 27<sup>th</sup> December, when we revert back to Tier 3 restrictions.

If you require any further information over the holiday please email us on the [covid19@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk) email. I will be in touch in course with any updates.

Have a lovely Christmas and take care of each other!

Kind Regards,



Mrs R England  
Headteacher