



Kirkburton Middle School

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Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

1st January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Can I first take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy New Year. I hope you are well and you have had a good Christmas break. I am very sorry to have to write to you on a bank holiday however, I would like to update you on the arrangements for the start of the new term. There have been some slight changes following the latest set of government announcements made on Wednesday afternoon ([see here for more details](#)). Please be aware, as with most recent government announcements, we learnt about the latest plans for pupils to return to education at the same time as yourselves – hence the late timing of this letter.

Arrangements for the start of the new term

Monday 4th January

- INSET day - focused on developing the quality of teaching and learning across the school

Year 6

- All year 6 pupils return to school as planned on Tuesday 5th January

Years 7 & 8

- Pupils will now return to school on Monday 18th January
- Remote learning will be delivered, in line with pupils' timetables, from period 4 on Tuesday 5th January. The morning will be spent briefing staff on the arrangements for the rollout of rapid testing and providing the necessary training where required.
- The only lessons that will not take place are PE, hopefully students can do some exercise at home during this time, and reading.
- Please note it may not be possible to offer a full timetable of live lessons next week as we prepare for rapid testing. Pupils should therefore also continue to check the [remote learning section of the school website](#) as well as their Microsoft Teams calendar.

Access to the remote learning curriculum

To support with our remote learning offer, we would be grateful if you could complete the short survey below in order to let us know what IT access your child has at home. The last time we asked for this information was last summer and we recognise your situation may have changed since then. Please complete a separate survey for



each child you have in school. **We would ask all parents complete this survey regardless of whether or not their child is returning to school next week just in case we need the information later in the term.**

[Remote learning access survey link](#)

Children of critical workers in Years 7 and 8

We have reopened the critical worker booking form as we realise peoples' needs may have changed in light of the additional week of remote learning. **If you completed the form before Christmas, there is no need to complete it again.** [Please click here to access the booking form](#); provision will start on Tuesday 5th January. **This form must be completed 4pm on Sunday 3rd January to secure a place. For children booked into our critical worker provision, attendance will be mandatory all week** and non-attendance will be followed up in the normal way and recorded as an absence unless the family is following direction from test and trace to self-isolate. In this case, and in the case of any illness, parents are asked to report in accordance with the school's existing policy.

Vulnerable Children:

The list of those groups that may be considered as vulnerable can be accessed from the full guidance to schools by clicking [here](#).

It is our expectation that **all children on an EHCP or those with a social worker will attend school as normal** and will be supported in the normal way to meet their needs. Parents/carers do not need to book a place for their child to attend school and absence should be reported in the normal way should they be unwell or isolating from 5th January.

Parents of vulnerable children, outside of children with an EHCP and those with a social worker who are expected to attend as normal, will be contacted individually to confirm attendance and arrangements on Monday 4th January.

Covid Testing

We hope to be in a position to invite Year 7 and 8 pupils in for their first test on Thursday or Friday next week. Full details about this offer together with the relevant permission forms will be sent out on Monday.

Free School Meal Vouchers

We have ordered additional vouchers for pupils studying at home and these will be delivered early next week. Please contact school if you need any further support in the meantime.

I think that is everything for now. I hope you have a lovely weekend and let us hope 2021 is a year to remember for all the right reasons.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor
Headteacher