



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

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Dear families,

I am writing with the regular weekly update. Mrs Marshall has sent a separate letter feeding back on the learner and parent surveys on remote learning so I will not include anything on that this week except to say that it appears from the initial government data that remote learning attendance at Rayner Stephens is higher than what is being recorded nationally. This is extremely positive and shows the teamwork taking place by the school and you to support remote learning, thank you for your efforts.

I am sure most of you are aware that the government announced earlier in the week that schools will remain closed at the beginning of next half term. The Prime Minister suggested that there may be some change to this after 8th March if the data supported relaxation of the current restrictions. He told the House of Commons that there will release a document setting out the phasing of school's reopening the week beginning the 22nd February to support schools in any preparations that need to take place in advance, however, the information we are currently getting from educational sources does not support the view that secondary schools will just fully reopen from the 8th March. We will as always update you further as soon as information becomes available.

The department of Education have also confirmed this week that all schools in England will be fully shut over the February half-term and not expected to provide holiday provision for the learners of key worker parents. If families need to access external childcare in that week, please can I refer you to Tameside council's website where half term holiday provision is publicised. The school will continue to act as track and trace for any staff or learners that are still accessing the school during lockdown and if your child becomes symptomatic and tests positive during the half term break please ensure that you contact covid@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk to inform us.

With this announcement the DfE confirmed that schools are not to request FSM vouchers for families for the week of half term as this is covered through the additional winter payment scheme already in place.

Finally, the Local Authority have contacted the school to give advanced information that the Local Elections have been confirmed for Thursday 6th May 2021. The school is one of the local polling stations for the area. In any other year this does not impact on learners in school however, they have informed us that schools that usually remain open may be required to shut for the day to comply with the COVID-19 restrictions that might be in place. They have said that it is too early to confirm what the arrangements will be but have asked schools that could be impacted by this to inform families now so that they have time to plan alternative arrangements if necessary.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Fay Beach

