



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

4 January 2021

Dear parent/carer

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had as good a holiday period as possible? As you will be aware the government made some announcements at the end of last year which will have an impact on all of us in the federation. As with everything related to this pandemic, nothing is easy or straightforward, so I hope to clarify the situation for each school in this letter. The Heads of School will also write to you with specific information relating to their school.

ACHS

All year groups are now working at home for the rest of this week. As of Tuesday 5th January, work will be placed in Google Classroom for the pupils to do. If your child and you have identified that your child is vulnerable or you are a key worker and you wish them to come to school then please send them in. Mr Scott will write to you with more details about where they will meet and the plan for them.

Presently the plan is that Year 11 and 13 students will return to school next Monday 11th January. We will of course write to you later this week to confirm this.

All other year groups will remain at home working online until Monday 18th January.

There are two external exams due to take place and these are for Year 11 Travel and Tourism, and Year 12 Health and Social Care. The pupils in these classes will get information about what to do for the exams. There will also be online revision sessions and Mr Gilhooley and Mrs Gilhooley will email the pupils directly with information on how these will occur.

Year 12 and 13 were due to have trial examinations beginning in the week beginning the 11th of January. These will now be moved to the week beginning the 25th of January. A new trial examination timetable will be produced and passed on in due course. Students should continue to prepare for these trial examinations in addition to the work that will be set online for their timetable lessons.

There are also a number of other events such as the Year 9 options process starting and Year 11 parents evenings to consider. These will be moved and further details will be shared about the rearranged times for these events in due course.

SSMS

In Key Stage 3 all year groups are now working at home for the rest of this week. As of Tuesday 5th January work will be placed in Google Classroom for the pupils to do. If your child and you have identified that your child is vulnerable or you are a key worker and you wish them to come to school then please send them in. Mrs McSparron will write to you with more details about where they will meet and the plan for them.

The present plan is that years 7 and 8 will remain at home working online until 18th January 2021.

In Key Stage 2 years 5 and 6 we are planning on having pupils in. The unions NEU and UNISON have advised their members that it is not safe to be in school teaching/working with full classes of primary school aged pupils. At the moment I expect to be able to offer a normal timetable to these year groups, however the pupils may not have their normal teacher.

WMS

In Key Stage 3 all year groups are now working at home for the rest of this week. As of Tuesday 5th January work will be placed in Google Classroom for the pupils to do. If your child and you have identified that your child is vulnerable or you are a key worker and you wish them to come to school then please send them in. Mr Souter will write to you with more details about where they will meet and the plan for them.

The present plan is that years 7 and 8 will remain at home working online until 18th January 2021.

In Key Stage 2 years 5 and 6 we are planning on having pupils in. The unions NEU and UNISON have advised their members that it is not safe to be in school teaching/working with full classes of primary school aged pupils. At the moment I expect to be able to offer a normal timetable to these year groups, however the pupils may not have their normal teacher.

School Lunches

For those children who are not in receipt of free school meals, we ask that you provide a packed lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday please. This is so that we can get the kitchens all sorted and also see how many pupils we have in school. We expect to offer a meal service for all pupils in school from Thursday 7th January but it will be a limited service.

Children in **Years 5 and 6** who are in receipt of free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday and a main meal on Thursday and Friday, although as above there may be a limited menu.

Parents of children in **Year 7 to Year 13** who are in receipt of free school meals will receive vouchers for the rest of this week i.e 5 January to 8 January. The school will **not** provide lunches for those FSM pupils if they are in school this week. I would please ask that you therefore provide your child with a packed lunch if they are coming in.

We expect that lunch service will return to normal in the week beginning 11th January. Parents of children in **Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** who are in receipt of free school meals will receive vouchers for 11 January to 15 January. The school will **not** provide lunches for those FSM pupils if they are in school next week. I would please ask that you therefore provide your child with a packed lunch for the week if they are coming in.

Testing

You will be aware that the government has said that it wants all pupils in year 7 and above to be able to have mass testing in schools. The 3 federation schools are expecting to be part of this plan and we are spending this week putting the plans in place for this to happen. I will write to you later this week with more detailed plans and with an explanation of what it means for your child. However if they are under 16 you as parents or guardians will have to give permission for the testing to occur so there will be a form for you to complete. I must be very clear and say that the testing will be carried out by your child and there will not be medical personnel on site to do the test.

As I say, I will write to you later this week with more details. I would also like to ask if there are any of you who are happy with volunteering to help us with the running of this programme can you please email Mrs Angela Small at angela.small@svf.org.uk.

Covid safety

At the moment there is a lot of information in the mainstream media and social media about how safe are schools, should schools be back, lockdowns etc. What I will say on the matter is that all my staff and I want the children in school because we know how important schooling and education is to our young people. But we have to make sure that they are secure. This new version of the virus spreads very easily and as a result more people are getting ill with covid 19. In school we will do all we can to make sure that covid secure measures are implemented and acted upon. I need you and your children to do their part as well. This means that they must wear masks properly, they must wash their hands and sanitise properly and they must maintain and respect the 2 metre social distance rules.

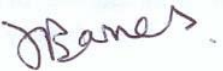
The advent of the vaccination is a great thing, but there is still some way to go yet till we are finished with this virus and its impact on our lives, so we must maintain and if possible improve our safety measures.

Some parents have expressed a desire to keep their children who are in years 5 or 6 off school at the moment. That is their choice and I will not express any opinion on that apart from I understand and accept that they have made that decision.

I apologise for such a long letter so soon in the new year, but I hope you understand why. As I say I will write to you later this week with further details on the mass testing plans and also if the government changes its mind regarding when year groups will return to school.

I wish you all a happy new year and hope that soon we start to get some positive news.

Yours sincerely



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher