

18 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

In response to yesterday's announcement re testing of pupils and school closure for secondary age children

It is important to recognise that every Headteacher received this news at the same time that all families across the UK did. Therefore, I will be concise and clear regarding Selwood's response to this news so that parents can plan childcare for January where required. The spring term starts again on January 6 as January 4 and 5 were already planned Inset days.

Pupils in year 5 and 6 will all return on the 6 January.

Pupils in years 7 and 8 will remain at home until returning to school on the 11 January **UNLESS** they are children of a Key Worker or classed as a Vulnerable pupil. In this instance Key Worker pupils and Vulnerable pupils in year 7 and 8 **will return also on the 6 January.**

Please see list for classification of Vulnerable Pupils

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
- adopted children or children on a special guardianship order those living in temporary accommodation
- those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- care leavers
- other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

For pupils remaining at home until 11 January advice regarding work schedules will be placed on the website after the Christmas break to ensure that all school staff have the time they are entitled to and deserve and to give time to plan.

'Let your light shine before others' Matthew 5 v 16
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TESTING

Selwood has consulted with many Heads across Somerset today and with the Local authority. I need to inform parents that we will not be in a position to test any staff or pupils during the first week of term. Such late information does not allow thorough safeguarding checks to take place and I am, like many of my peers, of the opinion that further guidance will be issued after 31 December.

I hope this gives you the information you need to prepare please do keep safe and look for further update on the website on the 5 January .

Thank you for your support and understanding.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Hopegood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jean Hopegood
Headteacher