

Dear parent / carer

I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and that all of our community remain safe and well at this time. I find myself having to write to you early in the New Year due to changes which have occurred during the Christmas break. You will no doubt be aware that a new and much more transmissible strain of Covid-19 has been discovered during the last two weeks. This has had a significant impact already and is the reason many areas including Rochdale have now gone into Tier 4 from December 31<sup>st</sup> [Tier 4: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tier-4-stay-at-home).

The Education Secretary announced on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December that the following system would be in place at the start of the new term:

<b>Government Announcements (December 30<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>What this means for students at St Cuthbert's (from January 5<sup>th</sup>)</b>
Full-time on-site provision from the first day of term for all vulnerable children and young people, and the children of critical workers.	Full-time on-site provision from Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January for all vulnerable children and young people, and the children of critical workers. The lessons in school will be exactly the same lesson as students who are remote accessing from home will have with their timetabled teacher. (Please see the section below on critical workers and what you need to do if this applies to you).
Preparation in the week commencing 4 January so that as many secondary-age pupils and staff as possible being can be offered 2 lateral flow device tests, prioritising staff, vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in exam year groups.	We will work with the Local Authority on how we can assist with implementing the government's plans for a mass testing system (see attached letter from LA). This testing will not be in place in school from January 4 and we are still awaiting advice. If there are any changes we will inform you.
The government announced that remote education being prioritised for pupils in exam year groups (primarily years 11 and 13) during the week commencing 4 January	All students in all year groups working from home should access work in their knowledge organisers on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January <a href="http://www.scrchs.net/curriculum/knowledge-organisers">www.scrchs.net/curriculum/knowledge-organisers</a> . All students working from home will have <a href="#">remote learning lessons</a> from Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January based on their normal school timetable (week B1). If you require a <a href="#">lap top</a> please contact school via the website and these will be available for collection from Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January in reception.
Remote education being provided for all other pupils from 11 January, with remote education resources week commencing 4 January prioritised for exam years	All students in Years 10 & 11 should be back in school and attend normal lessons from January 11 <sup>th</sup> . All Year 7-9 vulnerable and critical worker students should also continue to attend school. <a href="#">Remote learning</a> continues for all other students in years 7-9.
All pupils back in school for face-to-face education on by 18 January	All pupils back in school for face-to-face education on by 18 <sup>th</sup> January – unless the government make further changes.

### **Vulnerable Students**

These students have been identified and must attend school. Any students in Years 7-11 who fit the following criteria is considered vulnerable:

- Have an EHCP
- Looked after children (cared for children)
- Have a Social Worker
- Young carers

### **Critical Worker Categories**

Please see the link below for who falls into the categories for critical workers and vulnerable students. If you wish your son / daughter to attend from January 5<sup>th</sup> please ensure you meet this criteria and email this link [criticalworker@scrchs.com](mailto:criticalworker@scrchs.com) to inform us by 6pm on Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> to allow us to plan for numbers in school. All you need to do is email and say who your son / daughter is and that you are a critical worker (please specify what role) and that they will be in school next week. If you are a critical worker but would rather keep your son / daughter at home for this short period of time they will be able to access the lessons remotely and will in no way be disadvantaged.

[Critical Worker List](#)

### **Clinically Vulnerable**

Shielding advice is currently in place for Tier 4 areas and these students are advised not to attend school.

[Advice for clinically extremely vulnerable in new Tier 4 areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

### **Free School Meals**

Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with vouchers. These will be sent by email to all eligible parents and students from Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup>.

If there are any further developments we will keep you informed. I wish you all a safe and happy New Year. It is essential that we all follow the Tier 4 guidance to help keep each other as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely

D. Shields (Headteacher)