



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 Headteacher's Update**

Welcome everyone to our weekly update. We are now at the end of week three of Lockdown three. Since my last update a week ago we have had another few dozen u-turns and policy changes based around a variety of things including testing in schools. The rules have changed again but if I could please ask that you do respond to our request for consent or not to test your son or daughter when they eventually return to school. It is of course entirely your choice if you wish to consent or not but having a response would really help us to prepare for when they do come back as we can plan what we need to do based upon the numbers who have consented. I appreciate that things could change significantly several times before any of this is actually relevant but if it ever does come about that we are mass testing whole year groups we would need to have your response in advance.

Another change to be announced this week was that school's are to get advance notice of any changes. You may think this is obvious but please understand that everything you find out about schools is at the same time we do. There is no advance notice given to us, we find out at 8pm the day before the new rules take effect, just as you do. We have been assured however that we will be given two weeks notice of a full reopening. This is to allow ourselves and yourselves to make the necessary arrangements.

We have seen how quickly things can change. How certain anyone can be of what the situation will be two weeks into the future during this pandemic is another matter. Whatever we are told I think we should plan for it to be likely students will return on that date but also more than possible they will not if things change in the intervening two week period whenever that actually is. When I know more, I will share it with you immediately.

We still have over 90% of students attending their remote lessons. This is a yet another fantastic testament to our staff and students and their parents for ensuring they are doing this. As I said last week, these are real lessons with their timetabled teacher. If students engage with this remote learning and do what is asked of them, they will come back to school on course to achieve their expected progress despite the lockdown. We are determined to minimise any negative effects on the education of your children this current situation would otherwise cause. We will be surveying you soon to see if there is anything you feel we could be doing to further improve our provision at this time.

On Monday there will be a whole school assembly just after 11am. These will become weekly events. As part of the assembly we will be launching a community action we are looking at everyone getting involved in each week. This will then be a major focus on our social media pages to share our stories of what we are doing as a community each week which we can share. Details of how to do this will be sent to you. Please look at our website and Facebook page to get a flavour of what still goes on at school and remotely in the St Cuthbert's community. I wish all the very best until we can meet again

Mr D Shields

## **NOTICES**

### **Remote Learning**

Thank you to all parents and carers who are supporting their children in their remote learning. We are continually reviewing our remote learning provision and welcome your thoughts on our remote learning offer to identify what is going well and what can be improved further.

A survey has been sent to all parents / carers and we would appreciate it if this can be completed by 3pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Parent / Carer Guide**

Our [remote learning guide](#) for parents and carers has been updated and is available on our website. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's remote learning please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

### **Lesson Times**

Students should remote in on time for each lesson at the following times:

Session 1: 09.15 – 10.45

Break: 10.45 – 11.00

Session 2: 11.00 – 13.00

Lunch: 13.00 – 13.40

Session 3: 13.40 – 14.40

### **Wellbeing**

Please ensure your child takes regular breaks whilst working from home. It is important that they remain focussed on their learning but also have time within their day where they are off devices, can get some fresh air and enjoy some physical activity.

A survey has been sent to all our students regarding their wellbeing and how they are managing with the lockdown. We would appreciate it if you could encourage your child to complete this by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

### **IT Support**

If your child requires a laptop to enable them to work from home or if you need any IT support, please contact the IT team via the homepage on the school website , clicking on this link [IT Support](#) or calling 01706 396068.

## **Remote Learning Expectations**

Please ensure your child is aware of the expectations of them whilst attending remote lessons below:

It is expected that students follow what is outlined in the Student Teams Acceptable Usage Policy, Section 4 of the parent guide, which can be found on the school's website <https://www.scrchs.net/parents/policies>

Students must:

- Be contactable during school hours although we do acknowledge that student may not always be in front of a device the entire time.
- Students must accept class invites on Teams to remote into their live lessons.
- Students must attend all remote sessions (times outlined above).
- If a student does not attend a session, this will be highlighted to the pastoral team via class charts. Our normal attendance procedures will be adopted if we have not been informed that your child is ill.
- Students must complete work to the deadline set by teachers and to the usual classroom standard.
- Use proper online conduct, such as using appropriate language in messages & behaviour when in a live lesson. Students who disrupt the live lesson, in line with our normal classroom rules:
  - 1) Do not talk whilst another person is. Microphone on mute whilst the teacher gives instructions.
  - 2) Stay on task.
  - 3) Not to distract another student.
  - 4) To be polite & respectful at all times.

Students will receive a warning by the class teacher, if this behaviour continues, the teacher can remove the student from the live lesson. This will be followed up with the Head of Year/pastoral team who will contact home.

- Seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants via email
- Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work, via email

Parents can also contact their child's teacher via email/Teams should they wish to ask anything about the work. Using class charts, parents also have the facility to award their child reward points for good work/effort.

If there are any problems with students adhering to rules around remote learning, including if they don't engage with the remote learning set for them, the school will aim to contact with families to see how it can best support the student.

Non engagement with remote learning is being followed up each morning with texts being sent to families where students have not remotored into the lesson within 15 minutes of the lesson starting. Any student who has not engaged with remote learning and school have struggled to make contact with families will lead to a home visit to check in on students.

We will continue to review this process and have taken on board parental feedback that we have received this week in preparation for next week.

### **Lateral Flow COVID Tests**

A letter has been sent to all families asking them to either give or decline consent for their child to access a lateral flow test when in school. Please return this form as soon as possible.

We are now on Twitter. Please follow us on @RcCuthberts to keep up to date on all that is going on at St Cuthbert's.



### **Buses**

Families who have students currently attending school will have received an email with an update of the bus schedule as of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Please check the journeys as times have also been amended. Both the 880 and 887 will no longer be running