

Thursday, 31 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a pleasant Christmas and that you are looking forward to seeing the end of 2020 and bringing in what will hopefully be a brighter 2021 later on tonight. With a vaccination rollout beginning, we are hopefully at the beginning of the end of the pandemic. I am sorry for writing to you on New Years Eve but I felt parents deserved some clarity after the announcements yesterday from the Government. I have split the letter up by year groups to make it easier.

Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Students in these year groups will return as normal on Monday 4th January 2021. Parents/carers should continue to follow arrangements regarding staggered pick up and departure times and parents/carers must wear a face covering when on site to pick up children.

Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable (those who received a shielding letter in March/April) should not return to school. Please contact Mrs. Latham, Mrs. K. Shaw or Mr. Brimley if this affects your child.

Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10

The vast majority of students in these year groups will not return for face-to-face learning until **Monday 18th January 2021**. A remote learning offer will be available from Tuesday 5th January 2021, we will communicate details of this on Monday 4th January. If children need access to IT equipment to access Google Classroom, please contact Mrs. T. Shaw at school.

Should students/parents wish children to access learning online on the 4th January, there are materials available on Google Classroom. A more formal offer, including 'live' lessons, will be circulated on 4th January with clear arrangements for the time period between 5th January and the 15th January.

Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable (those who received a shielding letter in March/April) should not return to school. Please contact Mr. Buckley if this affects your child.

Year 11

Year 11 will not return for face-to-face learning until **Monday 11th January 2021**. A remote learning offer will be available from Tuesday 5th January 2021, we will communicate details of this on Monday 4th January. If children need access to IT equipment to access Google Classroom, please contact Mrs. T. Shaw at school.

Should students/parents wish children to access learning online on the 4th January, there are materials available on Google Classroom. A more formal offer, including 'live' lessons, will be circulated on 4th January with clear arrangements for the time period between 5th January and the 8th January.

Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable (those who received a shielding letter in March/April) should not return to school. Please contact Mr. Buckley if this affects your child.

Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Children in Years 7 to 11

Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Children (i.e. those who have a named social worker or an EHCP) can attend school from Monday 4th January and will be supported to engage in the remote learning offer. The Government decision to move back the start date of the term is to try and break transmission of the virus and whilst we will welcome all children of key workers and vulnerable children, the more children we have in school, the greater the transmission risk there is post-Christmas.

To access a place for Monday 4th January 2021 you **must** email us on admin@unity.fcat.org.uk by Sunday 3rd January 2021, 5PM so we can ensure a space is provided on Monday. If you require a place from Tuesday onwards you must contact us at school by phone on Monday 4th January 2021 before 4PM. Students will be accommodated in year group bubbles.

Mass Testing for Secondary Aged Children

We will communicate plans around how we intend to implement the Governments mass testing programme at Unity Academy in the week of the 4th January.

Secondary aged children – return to school

At this stage we are planning to welcome back Year 11 on Monday 11th January 2021 and Year 7 to 10 on Monday 18th January 2021. This is pending any Government changes. We will write to you confirming arrangements for the return at the same time as we share our plans for testing of children. Face coverings will be required by all students and staggered arrival/departure will still operate.

I hope that this makes the announcement yesterday clear for parents.

Once again my apologies for interrupting your New Years Eve but I wanted to write to you as soon as possible after the announcement was confirmed by Government.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher