



Emmanuel CE Middle School

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18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Our approach to the staggered return in January 2021

You may have seen in the news that the government has announced yesterday a staggered return for secondary pupils at the start of next term. This will affect our pupils in Years 7 and 8. Due to the late notice of this decision we are still working through many of the details but we wanted to share with you today our planning so far.

- On the week commencing 4th January we will continue with our planned INSET days on the 4th and 5th of January.
- Students in year 5 and 6, will all attend school in person from Wednesday 6th January 2021.
- We will offer full-time remote education to all other pupils in Years 7 and 8 from Wednesday 6th January to Friday 8th January. This will be accessed through Google Classroom.
- All vulnerable children and children of critical workers will be able to attend school in person from Wednesday 6th January. If you believe your child is in this group please complete the ParentMail Form, which will be sent under separate cover, to let us know if they will be attending school. A list of the eligible categories is attached to the end of this letter.

We will welcome all pupils back to school for face-to-face education on the week commencing 11th January.

We have been directed by the Department of Education to use this time to establish a COVID-19 mass-testing system within the school. Here is what we know so far about the rapid testing programme recently announced by the government:

- Pupils who are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive will be eligible.
- All staff will be eligible.
- While testing will be optional, we'll strongly encourage staff and pupils to take part.
- We will not ask your child to participate in testing without their consent (or yours, as appropriate).
- Those pupils returning to school first will be offered testing first.
- If someone tests negative, they will still need to follow our social distancing and hygiene measures.
- If someone tests positive, we will ask them to self-isolate in line with government guidance.



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As soon as the government publishes more information on the testing programme we will update you.

Thank you so much for your continued support as we respond to this evolving situation. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school next term in line with the dates above.

Warm regards,

Rob Christopher
Headteacher

A reminder of the definitions of 'critical workers' and 'vulnerable pupils'

Critical workers are those who work in:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services (including the justice system, religious staff, charities delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting)
- Local and national government (those who are involved in delivering the coronavirus response or essential public services)
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Vulnerable pupils are those who:

- Are assessed as being in need, including those with a child in need plan or child protection plan
- Are looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by the school or LA, including children who:
 - Are on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
 - Are adopted
 - Are at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - Are living in temporary accommodation
 - Are young carers
 - May have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)

If you believe your child is in this group please complete the ParentMail form, which will be sent under separate cover, to let us know if they will be attending school.