



Date: Thursday 31st January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re : Updates regarding start of Term January 2021

We hope that you all had a restful Christmas and can we wish you all a Happy New Year.

You will have seen several announcements yesterday about schools and tiers, so I thought it timely to write to you with information about how we plan to respond. The updates below are based on the latest information and guidance from the Government and therefore remains subject to change should the situation alter.

Week beginning Monday 4th January 2021

You will have heard in the announcement yesterday that during week beginning 4th January 2021, secondary schools will open only for vulnerable and key worker students. This is to allow time for the significant work needed to prepare for the Lateral Flow testing from the following week.

Prior to the Christmas period, we asked for those requiring a place in school to complete a request using the following link; parents of students in year 11 are requested to add their child's details if they feel they are eligible for a place in school. All applications should be completed by 4:00pm on Saturday 2nd January, Mr White will then confirm if a place is available.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2s8TOK9SpUy44yMVeXcKuuUDtb9yViVDk0J2RwpOS1UOFq0MVNIVVpPSzA1UVU0OE1KSTBSMDFLMC4u>

Students who attend during this week will follow their normal timetabled lessons but will work in a year group bubble so they can remain distanced from students in other year groups. They will follow remote / online work that will be provided by their class teachers for their classmates who remain at home.

Students remaining at home in all other year groups (including Year11 & 13) will be provided with distance learning through Satchell One, in line with their normal timetabled lessons, with some element of live lessons through Microsoft Teams. However, in a small number of instances, work may not be provided where key teaching staff are engaged in the planning and preparation work for the Covid-19 Lateral Flow tests. Where this occurs, students should continue with any previously set work and / or use Oak National Academy resources to continue with the topic studied.

<http://twc-cms2.azurewebsites.net/parent-information/learning-zone-online-safety>

We understand that school transport will be running as usual for students needing to use this service to attend school during this week. Students attending should bring a packed lunch. For students eligible for free school meals, the voucher scheme will continue to be provided.

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Vocational exams due to be sat in the first weeks back will go ahead as planned. This means those pupils will be allowed to attend school to sit their exams. *Students involved with these exams will be contacted separately with further detail.*

Week beginning Monday 11th January 2021

The Government have instructed that from January 11th, Year 11 and Year 13 students (examined year groups) should return to school. We therefore expect all Year 11 & 13 students to attend from 11th January, following their normal timetable (or for year 13 the previously communicated programme of mock examinations - *the timetable for these exams will follow the same sequence as previously published, further detail on these arrangements will follow*).

As per previous week, the vulnerable/key worker students as agreed with school are to attend. We expect that food will be available through the school canteen for those students attending, however this may be a limited choice. Students in Years 7,8,9,10 &12 are to remain at home where they will continue with the distance learning.

Lateral Flow Testing may begin during this week of students attending where consent has been provided; further information relating to this will follow next week.

Week beginning Monday 18th January 2021

The Government has indicated that from 18th January, all students are expected to return to school as usual. To the best of our knowledge, we anticipate extending Lateral Flow testing to other year groups where consent has been received. Can we therefore remind you all of the following:

Hygiene

Students are required to sanitise their hands on entry to and departing school transport and regularly around the school building; hand gel sanitisers are available around the site.

Face Coverings

A reminder that students are expected to continue wearing face coverings on school transport and on site in communal areas, including when moving around site between lessons. To parents/carers, we are requesting you wear face coverings in addition to adhering to social distancing when on or near school grounds.

Absence

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms commenced. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing using the normal NHS systems.

For our attendance records, please inform school if your household is isolating due to COVID-19. Please inform us at the earliest opportunity by emailing us on covid.support@oldburywells.com

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

As you will be aware, Oldbury Wells School has strictly followed the guidance provided by the government and have robust control measures in school to ensure as safe an environment in school as possible. We are very grateful to you for helping us by following these processes to keep our school community as safe as possible.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support. As we receive further updates, we will share these with you to ensure that students and the whole school community are as informed, safe and supported as possible. Please refer to the school website should you have any further questions (<http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/covid-update>)

Yours faithfully

Lee Tristham
Headteacher