

The Holy Family



Catholic School

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

First of all can I apologise for contacting you during the Christmas holiday period. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable following announcements made by the Department for Education relating to students staggered return to school after the Christmas break.

I wrote to you on Friday 18th December 2020 outlining arrangements as they stood then. That information has now changed as a result of a DfE announcement made yesterday.

Please see below the most up to date information relating to the return to school from w/c 4th January 2020:

- All students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, with the exception of those students specifically identified by the government as those who should attend, should work from home from Monday 4 – Friday 15 January 2021.
- All students in Years 11-13, with the exception of those students specifically identified by the government as those who should attend, should work from home from Monday 4 – Friday 8 January
- **If you have child(ren) in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12 and they should be attending school week commencing 4 January, you will have received a separate message from the school on Friday 18 December. If you received this message, please send your child(ren) in to school at 8.35 am on Monday, 4 January 2021 unless you have contacted us to advise us otherwise.**
- **If you have child(ren) in Years 11 or 13 and they should be attending school week commencing 4 January, you will receive a separate message from the school before the end of the day today. If you receive this message, please send your child(ren) in to school at 8.35 am on Monday, 4 January 2021.**
- If you have critical worker status and would like your child(ren) to attend school from w/c 4 January 2020, please e-mail the school using office@holyfamilyschool.uk or MyEd giving your child(ren)'s name(s), form(s) and details of your critical worker status. **Please let us have this information no later than noon on Saturday 2 January 2021.**
- **The current plans state that all students in Years 11 and 13 will return to full time face to face education on Monday 11 January 2021.**
- **The current plans state that all students in years 7,8,9,10 and 12 will return to full time face to face education on Monday 18 January 2021, although this situation will be reviewed by the DfE on Wednesday 13 January 2021.**

All students working from home will be set work using Classcharts. Students have been shown how to log on to Classcharts. If there any problems with accessing Classcharts, please contact the school using ictsupport@holyfamilyschool.uk for assistance.

If your child(ren) does not have access to ICT to enable them to access their work on Classcharts and they are not identified as needing to attend school the first week back, please contact us either using office@holyfamilyschool.uk or MyEd and we will arrange for a member of staff to call you on Monday, 4 January 2021 to discuss the support we can put in place.

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Azad at the school on 01535 210212 and she will give you details of the arrangements we have in place to provide these for your child whilst at home.

Finally, you will have seen reports in the media of plans for schools to begin undertaking mass Covid-19 testing of students and staff from w/c 4 January 2021. We are currently working through the planning and documentation we have been sent and we will be in touch with you again when we have further details of how this arrangement will work for us. In the meantime, please be assured that under no circumstances will students be asked to undertake Covid-19 testing in school prior to the school having received written consent from parents/carers in advance. We will be in touch to seek this consent once we have more detailed information regarding the proposed in school testing regime.

As always, please ensure students do not attend school if they are exhibiting any of the three key symptoms of Covid-19:

- * High temperature
- * Persistent new cough
- * Loss of taste or smell

This also applies if any member of the household is displaying these symptoms. In this case please follow the latest government guidance on testing and isolation and inform the school accordingly.

Please accept my apologies for informing you of the changes in arrangements at such short notice. We were not aware of these arrangements ourselves until late yesterday. I understand that these late changes may cause inconvenience and if there is anything the school can do to support, then please contact us and we will do whatever we can to help.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this difficult and challenging time and wish you and you families a happy and healthy new year.

Yours sincerely



S Mather
Interim Headteacher