

EBE/srg

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all managed to have a restful and enjoyable Christmas despite the circumstances we are facing. I do also hope that you and your children are all safe and well. I am sorry that we had to interrupt the first part of your holidays with track and trace information, but it was crucial we were able to communicate as efficiently as possible to reduce the risk of infection for our community.

I am sure many of you will have seen the broadcast yesterday or have read the headlines this morning. There is still a lack of clarity over the plans and we hope the Department for Education will provide us with further information ASAP. As I write this letter, this is our current understanding and our plans for Willingdon Community School in January 2021.

- **Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, remains our planned Inset Day on Teaching and Learning. **There is no provision for any children on this day.**
- **Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> January**, the school will be open to ‘Critical Worker’ children only. Please be mindful that the government have revised the term ‘Key Worker’ to ‘Critical Worker’ so please check on the link below that you and your children qualify. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>
- **Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> January**, we will provide remote learning for Year 11. More details will follow on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January. **The expectation is that ALL Year 11 take part. This is not optional.**
- For **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10**, the government have clearly stated that there is **currently no expectation to provide work in the first week back for these year groups**. However, I know the difficulty this will place parents in with another week of holiday and very little to do with children during this Tier 4 lockdown. Therefore, please bear with us whilst we ascertain the staffing capacity we will have, to start remote learning for all students at some point the first week back.

**The current plan from the government at this time for the second week in January is as follows:**

- **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> January** – the school is open to Critical Worker and vulnerable children.
- **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 11 return to school.
- **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> January** - Remote learning starts officially for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- **Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January** - All students to return to school. (This is to be confirmed by the government depending on the status of the virus).

We are coping with an ever changing landscape and I am certain that as soon as I send this letter, it will be immediately outdated as new information is released by government. I will therefore look to write again to you by lunchtime on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January with further clarity on all of the plans above.

If you believe you are a Critical Worker, please can you fill in the link overleaf to register your child with us for the provision. Can I remind parents that there is currently no expectation to provide work the first week back for any child in Years 7-10, only Year 11, so this time in school for Critical Worker children will be supervision only, most likely with support staff. This will not be extra tuition or lessons.

**Continued/...**

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Furthermore, the Critical Worker provision will need to be run differently to last time as we now have all year groups in bubbles. Catering will be provided at break and lunch but this will not be free of charge unless your son/daughter obtains Free School Meals. I will write to Critical Worker families again with more details once we have numbers confirmed. Our message is however, unless it is absolutely a necessity, do not send your children into school. We need to reduce the risk of the virus spreading to our students but also our staff community.

**Critical Worker Provision Form for w/c 4<sup>th</sup> January**

<https://forms.gle/VGmNJmNF6YSNoPwB6>

I will also include in my next letter the plans for mass testing. As I'm sure you have read, schools haven't been given much guidance yet, other than the army will be doing webinars at some point in the first week back. I need time to plan the staffing and logistical organisation of this, so please do bear with me. Thank you to the parents who got in touch offering to help. There is no need to contact us again about this. We will contact you if we do need further support.

If you do need to contact us about anything, remember the [talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk) is the best channel where a team of staff are available to respond.

Thank you again for the amazing faith you have placed in us this year. I know as we enter 2021 that we still face many challenges ahead. However, the confidence you have had in our school makes me proud to lead Willingdon and I will continue to do my very best for our community which we serve.

Happy New Year and I wish everyone health and happiness in 2021.

Best wishes,

Ms E. Beer  
**Headteacher**