



17th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: January start of term arrangements

I would firstly like to thank you for your continued support at this very challenging time, when plans are changing at very short notice. Thank you, also, for encouraging your child to engage with the online learning that has been in place at the end of this term.

The arrangements for the start of next term have had to be changed to enable us to ensure we have a full staff on return and second INSET day has been added to allow us to make the necessary checks on staff prior to students returning. School will therefore restart for students on **Wednesday 6th January 2021** at the usual time. There may be further changes depending on the guidance we receive from the Department for Education and/or Public Health during the holiday period and we will contact you regarding any changes as soon as we possibly can.

Enclosed with this letter is a letter from Matthew Cole, Director of Public Health, in Barking and Dagenham who we look to for guidance on how to manage the safety of students and staff during the current pandemic. His advice is that all staff and students have a recent Covid test prior to returning to school in January so anyone who is asymptomatic and not showing symptoms can be identified. All staff have been asked to take a test at the *start of January* and I strongly recommend you have your child tested before they return to school. We will also be doing our best to manage the numbers onsite and minimise the risk of transmission between people. I remind you that both students and staff should be wearing masks in all communal areas and regularly washing and sanitising their hands as well as helping to reduce physical contact at 2m or less.

I look forward to students returning to some onsite learning in January and welcome your support in ensuring your child attends regularly, punctually and ready to learn.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and healthy Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Cathy Stygal
Headteacher

Head Teacher: **Cathy Stygal**

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