

2nd February 2021

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Dear Parent/Carer

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HEADTEACHER
Mrs Linda King B.Ed (Hons)

Return to school/Online learning queries/Attendance recording

Update from 1st February 2021



As you will be aware, now that we have the twice weekly lateral flow testing on site for all students and staff, we have thankfully been able to return to face to face teaching with all students invited back into school from 1st February. It is lovely to see the pupils back in school again!



Though some parents have chosen to keep their child at home, the majority of students are now back in their classes and accessing the full curriculum on site. This means that all staff are now back to planning and delivering lessons as normal and as such will no longer be able to set additional weekly online lessons due to excessive workload.



The exceptions to this are if your child is;



- classed as extremely clinically vulnerable and are 'shielding' or
- self-isolating or quarantining



However, as we return to a semblance of 'normality' in school, the setting of weekly homework will resume this week and all students can still access all online platforms such as My Maths, Doodle Maths, Lexia etc. All Programmes of Study for the topics being delivered in school can also be found in the 'Curriculum Maps' area of the school website.



If your child accesses support from Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy or the School Counsellor, these support sessions will continue but remotely unless your child is back in school.



Weekly wellbeing calls will continue for any pupils still at home. Weekly doorstep home visits will also be arranged for those pupils/families with a social or family support worker.



In terms of Attendance and how this is recorded, please see the following information from the gov.uk document 'Guidance for special schools, specialist post-16 providers and alternative provision during national lockdown' published January 2021:



'All schools should continue to record attendance in the register. Schools should follow up on absences of the pupils who are expected to be in school, but where a parent wishes for their child to be absent, we expect schools to authorise the absence during this national lockdown period. Absence will not be penalised.'



Where schools grant a leave of absence to a vulnerable child or young person they should still speak to parents and carers, and social workers (where applicable) to explore the reasons for this and any concerns raised. The discussions should focus on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.

As vulnerable children are still expected to attend school full-time, they should not be marked as Code X if they are not in school (except if they are shielding, self-isolating or quarantining). If the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent, the parent should let the school know. The department expects schools to grant applications for leave of absence given the exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as Code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.'

If you have any further queries or concerns, please contact the school.
As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L M King', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

L M King (Mrs)
Headteacher