

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to update all parents and carers on the start of term following new information released by the Department of Education. As you know they have decided to stagger the return to school at the beginning of next week. We have worked again quickly on a return to school plan which is set out below.

We have been instructed by the DFE to ensure that the only pupils eligible to start face to face teaching in school on the 4th January are the following:

- The children of critical workers
- Those children with an allocated social worker
- Those children with an Education and Health Care Plan

Year 11 and Year 13 will be learning 'remotely' for the that first week (week beginning the 4th January), which means they will learn from home and access our online portal The Kenton Learning Zone. The link is below. All other pupils will remain at home week beginning the 4th January and will be expected to access remote learning from Wednesday 6th January.

I have set out in a simple table how the pupils will return to school so that I can hopefully provide clarity in a complicated situation.

Date	Groups of pupils to attend school	Groups of pupils home learning
January 4 th 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any pupil in any year with an allocated social worker or an EHCP attend school for 8.20 on January 4th • Any pupil in any year whose parents are defined as Critical Workers (the link is below outlining professions which qualify) attend school for 8.20 on January 4th 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 11 and 13 from January 4th access home learning • Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 from January 6th access home learning
January 11 th 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11 and 13 return to school for 8.20 on January 11th • Any pupil in any year with an allocated social worker continue to attend • Any pupil in any year whose parents are defined as Critical Workers (the link is below outlining professions which qualify) continue to attend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 10 and 12 continue home learning
January 18 th 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils expected to attend school for 8.20 	

Children of Critical Workers

You may be eligible to send your child to school on the 4th January if you are employed as a critical worker as defined by the government in this list <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

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To ensure we have the necessary staffing in place for that week, please contact the school at administration@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk to register your child for teaching in school from the 4th January. **Please only do so when other childcare options are exhausted**, this will allow staff to adapt to the in-school testing changes the government are proposing.

Children with an EHCP or an allocated Social Worker

If your child has an allocated social worker or an Education and Health Care Plan please send the pupil into school as normal on the 4th January. We have a list of these pupils so will know who to expect.

Children in Years 11 and 13

For these pupils please see the link <https://www.kenton.newcastle.sch.uk/kenton-learning-zone> where you will find access to our online learning portal. This is for week beginning the 4th January. Years 11 and 13 will return to school for 8.20 on the 11th January.

Children in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

For these pupils please see the link <https://www.kenton.newcastle.sch.uk/kenton-learning-zone> where you will find access to our online learning portal. Work will be available from Wednesday 6th January. All these year groups will return to school on the 18th January for 8.20.

Mass Testing

We will be working with Newcastle Local Authority on the plans for mass testing of pupils and will contact you with further information next week. However, we will not commence testing of any pupils until staff have received the requisite training and we have received parental permission for the test.

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals we will operate a similar system to the lockdown of last academic year, so we will allocate vouchers to families for the week. This will be via the WONDE scheme, an extension to the system we are running over the Christmas holidays.

Please be assured we will continue to work with Newcastle City Public Health and Newcastle Local Authority as we have done since March 20th. I am confident that we will be able to minimise the disruption to your family and to your child's learning by further consolidating the partnership between home and school. We thank you for your support at this challenging time. Please adhere to the instructions above and as ever as soon as we have more information, we will share this with parents and carers.

Yours sincerely

S Holmes-Carne

S Holmes-Carne
Principal

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