

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> January and will be expected to access remote learning from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any pupil in any year with an allocated social worker or an EHCP attend school for 8.20 on January 4<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• 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 4<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 11 and 13 from January 4<sup>th</sup> access home learning</li> <li>• Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 from January 6<sup>th</sup> access home learning</li> </ul>
January 11 <sup>th</sup> 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 11 and 13 return to school for 8.20 on January 11<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Any pupil in any year with an allocated social worker continue to attend</li> <li>• Any pupil in any year whose parents are defined as Critical Workers (the link is below outlining professions which qualify) continue to attend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 10 and 12 continue home learning</li> </ul>
January 18 <sup>th</sup> 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All pupils expected to attend school for 8.20</li> </ul>	

### Children of Critical Workers

You may be eligible to send your child to school on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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>.

**Kenton School is committed to keeping all children safe**

This letter can be supplied in large print, as an audio recording or in a language other than English. Please contact Ms G Taylor, PA to the Principal to arrange an alternative version.



To ensure we have the necessary staffing in place for that week, please contact the school at [administration@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:administration@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk) to register your child for teaching in school from the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> January. Years 11 and 13 will return to school for 8.20 on the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> January. All these year groups will return to school on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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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