

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and have had a restful and peaceful Christmas. I write to you following the government's announcement yesterday afternoon and to give you further information regarding the start of term. Please be aware that as the pandemic continues to evolve, these arrangements may change once again; the government has clearly said that they will be kept under review.

## **Monday 4 January**

This will still be an INSET day, as per my end of term letter. Pupils will remain at home and no remote learning will be set.

## **From Tuesday 5 January**

School will be open to **key worker and vulnerable groups only**. Those who fall into this category are listed in the link below.

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

If your child falls into the vulnerable category then we will be in touch with you on Monday 4 January to arrange for your child to attend school from Tuesday 5 January.

If both parents are critical workers and you therefore intend to send your child to school on Tuesday 5 January, then I would ask that you inform us of this by emailing [keyworker@ripley.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@ripley.lancs.sch.uk) **by Sunday 3 January** at the latest. We will need to know in advance which pupils are attending.

Thank you to those who have already sent us an email – you will receive a reply confirming your place.

Pupils should arrive at normal time and go to their allocated year group zone. They should bring their books and equipment for their normal lessons each day. Food will be available in the canteen at lunchtime as normal.

**As was the case before Christmas, it is important that you do not send your child into school if they are suffering from any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, continuous cough, loss of taste or smell). They must stay off school and get a test as soon as possible.**

## **Blended Learning**

All other pupils will be set remote learning to complete at home. We will be using a Blended Learning approach – this is a mixture of resources and tasks set on Firefly, as well as some live lessons using Microsoft Teams.

*Believe.....*

Pupils should follow their usual timetable and log in to Firefly either to complete the required tasks set or to access their live Lessons.

Mrs Best will be sending home further information on Monday 4 January regarding live lessons and accessing the blended learning.

Mr Wilson will also be in contact with pupils and parents next week with information regarding behaviour expectations for live lessons. We will have the same high expectations of pupils when they are taking part in online lessons as we would in the classroom.

Please encourage your children to engage with their blended learning as much as possible and to email their teachers directly if they have any questions about their work.

If you have issues with access to devices, please get in touch with us via Parentline.

### **Week commencing 11 January**

**Year 11 and Year 13 will return to school**, along with our key worker and vulnerable pupils.

Year 13 exams will go ahead, as per the revised timetable which I sent home on the last day of term.

Blended learning will continue for all other year groups as outlined above.

### **Week commencing 18 January**

**All other year groups** are due back in school from Monday 18 January and normal lessons will then resume.

Year 12 exams will continue as planned, as per the scheduled exam timetable.

### **Transport**

We have made contact with the bus companies. As far as we are aware, services will be as normal from Tuesday 5 January. If we receive any further information on Monday we will get in touch with parents immediately.

### **Free School Meals**

We will be making vouchers available for those in receipt of free school meals and will be sending these to you through the post.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

Next week we will be setting up our Lateral Flow Testing as per the government expectation. Please rest assured that pupils will only take these tests with your permission. I will be in contact with you next week with further information about this.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Walmsley  
Principal