



31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You may have seen yesterday's announcement by Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education), with updated information on the reopening of schools after the Christmas break: further guidance has been issued to schools last night and again this morning. It may be helpful, as a variety of information has been circulated in the press, to summarise what this means for your children at St Laurence.

Some of the guidance received this morning has changed from last night so, at the time of writing, the position is as follows:

- 1) Wiltshire is now in Tier 3.
- 2) Children in Years 11 and 13, will now return to school on the 11th January 2021 and will receive remote learning from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We will publish more information about this soon.
- 3) Y13 mock exams will be rolled forward to the week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and will follow the existing mock exam timetable.
- 4) Children in all other year groups will return to school on the 18th January 2021 and will receive remote learning from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We will publish more information about this soon.
- 5) Children of key workers and those defined as vulnerable in the DFE guidance will be able to attend school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Please see the details below with further information about how we will facilitate this at St Laurence.
- 6) Testing kits will be delivered to schools on the 4th January.
- 7) Full testing guidance is due out on 31st December. The current position is that both staff and students will self-administer a test. Clearly, parents and carers will need to give permission for this and we will send out more details about this soon.
- 8) Testing processes will need to take place in a large space and we anticipate that a year group of approximately 200 will take half a day to test.
- 9) Staff required to supervise the self-administering of tests will be trained via a video presentation.
- 10) Despite much hype, it is unclear to us and indeed the army, what their role might be in the testing process.

### Key Worker Request for School Place

We have on record requests for key worker places in school that were collected via our survey at the end of September. If you did not request a school place at this time, or if your circumstances have changed and you are now a key worker, please use the link below to request a place. Please ensure that you have completed the survey *by 9.30am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January* so that we can process your request.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DL2LZ7G>



Please be aware that in order to ensure the school environment is as safe as possible following increased mixing over the Christmas period, we will only be offering key worker places to children in Y7 and Y8 to help reduce contact in school. The nature of the in-school provision is detailed below.

### Places for Children Identified as Vulnerable in the DFE Guidance

We will know from our records if your child is identified as vulnerable using the DFE criteria and a member of either our Pastoral Team or Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Team will contact you during the course of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to discuss your child's attendance at school from 5<sup>th</sup> January.

If you are concerned that we may not know that your child meets the vulnerable criteria, please email the school using the following address: [admin@st-laurence.com](mailto:admin@st-laurence.com) and we will ensure that the relevant member of staff contacts you to discuss your concerns.

The criteria used by the DFE to identify vulnerable children are as follows:

*Vulnerable children and young people include those who:*

- *are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child*
- *have an education, health and care (EHC) plan*
- *have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:*
  - *children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services*
  - *adopted children or children on a special guardianship order*
  - *those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')*
  - *those living in temporary accommodation*
  - *those who are young carers*
  - *those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)*
  - *care leavers*
  - *other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health*

The nature of the in-school provision is detailed below.

### In School Provision

Where children attend school following the offer of a key worker place or where they have been identified as vulnerable, and families have discussed their intentions with either the AEN or our Pastoral Teams, the in-school provision will be as outlined below. Students will:



- Arrive at school at the usual time, wearing school uniform
- Enter using their usual entrance and complete handwashing
- Follow their usual timetable throughout the school day, including tutorial and social times
- Access, in their timetabled classroom, the live lessons that teachers will be delivering via Teams to students at home; the content for the lesson will be displayed on the screen in the classroom and the learning and support will be the same as that provided for students at home.
- Leave school at the usual time, using their usual exit

We are working at short notice to implement the DFE Guidance and, as ever, we will endeavour to do this in a way that best supports your child's education and well-being. We will be in contact soon with further information and, depending on the nature of the information, will be communicating via our website, parent mail and text messaging. We respectfully ask that you do not contact the school with individual queries at this time.

Yours faithfully

*Tim Farrer*

Mr T Farrer  
Headteacher