

December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite thinking I wouldn't need to write again this term, we find ourselves this morning with yet more last minute changes to deal with in school. There will be more detail to follow after the break but there are some things I need to make you aware of today before we finish.

Additional INSET Day Monday 4th January 2021

The Government have given all schools an additional INSET day to plan for more changes in January. This means school is now closed to **all pupils** on this day. Staff will be in school training and preparing for these changes. There will be no online work set on this day.

Tuesday 5th January – Friday 8th January 2021

For the remainder of the first week back school is open for face to face learning for the following pupils:

- All pupils in Year 11, 12 & 13
- Children of Critical workers
- Vulnerable pupils

We will be contacting the parents of vulnerable pupils on Monday 4th January to finalise arrangements and have details of those who attended in the previous lockdown, so will also contact those parents at the same time. If you are a critical worker and would like your child to be in school please contact us either via email to reception@aldergrange.com or by telephone on the 4th January.

Remote learning

All other pupils should remain at home for the first week of term. Lessons will be delivered remotely via Google Classroom, so pupils should follow their usual timetables and join classrooms at the appropriate time. As many lessons as possible will be delivered via a live video link.

Monday 11th January 2021

All pupils should be back in school from this date for face to face learning.

Testing in schools

It is intended that schools will begin testing pupils and staff from January. This will require significant planning and training for staff. It is our hope that we will begin this as early as possible in the new term; however we will not begin the process until we are ready for this. I will update you about this in the new term, as the detailed guidance and training has not yet been released. We will require parental consent to test any pupils, and this will be sent out in January, so please keep an eye out for further emails. It has been reported that pupils will need to have a negative test before they return, this is not the case, and will be almost definitely impossible to arrange.

Volunteers

We are aware that the Government has suggested that volunteers could help with the School Covid Testing, although no details have yet emerged regarding this. However if any parent or carer feels they would be able to give up a few hours each week to support, then please let us know – full training will be given and we would need to complete a DBS check.

Apologies for the last minute nature of this, however, as always these changes were announced first on the news yesterday, initial guidance arrived in schools at 6:30pm yesterday and much of the detail is not yet published. To say this is a frustrating for us in school as it must be for you, is a massive understatement!

I would like to repeat my gratitude for the incredible support from all of you this term. The numerous messages and gifts we have received this week particularly, have been enormously appreciated. I remain determined to make the best of all of this, and navigate a route through that has the best interests of Alder Grange pupils at heart.

Have a restful break and I look forward to seeing all our pupils in January.

Yours faithfully,



Jo Griffiths

Headteacher

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