

Dear Parent/Carer

Late yesterday afternoon the Government made a further announcement regarding their plans for returning children to school from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, please see latest guidance below:

## **DfE 30 December – Coronavirus – Daily update to all early years, children’s social care, schools and further education providers**

**Secondary schools** (for *Edwinstree Year 7 and Year 8*) and colleges **will extend the staggered return** of their students to give more time to rollout the testing programme.

- during the first week of term, beginning on or just after 4 January, secondary schools and colleges will focus on the rollout of testing to help find asymptomatic cases. **They will provide face-to-face education for vulnerable children and the [children of critical workers](#)**, and prioritise resources for remote education for exam year groups in line with what they would receive in class and to all other years as resources permit
- during the second week of term, beginning on 11<sup>th</sup> January, secondary schools and colleges will start their programme of testing, prioritising staff, those students in schools and colleges and the exam cohorts. Schools and colleges will be able to bring students back to face-to-face tuition as testing is rolled out. **Remote education will be provided to all pupils this week prior to return to school or college**  
**all students will return to secondary schools and colleges for face-to-face education by 18th January**

Early years and **some primary year groups** (currently our area is due to return) **will return as normal from the start of term**, (Year 5 and Y6) with the exception of areas where primary schools will shift to remote education in line with the contingency framework.

### **Who is expected to be in school and who is expected to work from home?**

If your child is in Year 5 and Year 6 they are able to return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January as planned. They will require a mask, a water bottle and a packed lunch, or school meals can be ordered online. All other equipment will be provided. They will continue with their timetable which will be issued on the first day of term. [If your child has PE they will not be expected to wear their kit on the first day]

**Year 7 and Year 8 students will be expected to work from home, using ‘*Show My Homework*’,** and from Tuesday morning, lessons will be posted up daily for the following two weeks. The planned date for their return to school is **18<sup>th</sup> January**. Please notify the School Office if you require hard copies, they will be available for collection on Tuesday afternoon.

**Keyworker parents or parents of vulnerable students in Year 7 and Year 8** qualify for a place in school from the 5<sup>th</sup> January, we may have already contacted you if your child was attending in the summer using either of these categories, but I am seeking confirmation that you wish your child to attend.

**If your child is new to the school or you feel your child is eligible for a place**, please contact the school via [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). In the email please state your **child’s name, year and class** and confirm that you are eligible as you meet the criteria and would like your child to attend school on 5<sup>th</sup> January. **Please be aware that we are not in the business of turning students away, please let us know so we can support you.**

### **What is the criteria for vulnerable children attending school?**

- re-assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Students Act 1989, including students 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 (EHCP) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including students’ social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - students and young people on the edge of receiving support from students’ social care services or in the process of being referred to students’ services
  - adopted students or students 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 students 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

## Who is on the list of critical workers? Please click on the link to find the list.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

## What we need to do in order to roll this testing programme out?

We will need to implement the following:

- seek parental permission to carry out the tests, more information to follow
- we need to recruit volunteers to support this testing, no school has the capacity to deliver this programme. If you are willing to help or would like more details please contact [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) titled "Potential volunteer to support testing in Edwinstree".

## If my child receives Free School Meals and is not attending school, can I get a food parcel?

Yes and we will be sending out information via Parentmail on the 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## Will buses be operating as normal from the Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January?

Yes - all bus companies have confirmed they are operating.

## What will online learning look like for Year 7 and Year 8?

We will be following the format that the students are used to, which was recognised by Hertfordshire as good practice. We will continue to post clear guidance on 'Show my Homework' and the resources required. All subjects will continue the same format for setting work.

## Are there any plans to move to remote teaching/ video conferencing online?

We are considering a trial of online lessons with senior teachers during the second week of remote learning and you will receive details of when and how your child can access these. All the resource and instructions will be posted on line, so students can complete their lessons.

## Can you summarise again for me?

- Year 5 and Year 6 can attend school as COVID normal from the 5<sup>th</sup> January, staff will meet them at their normal time in their designated area on the field.
- Year 7 and Year 8 remain at home and complete distance learning, unless they meet the eligible criteria. Distance learning will be posted on 'Show my Homework' and hard copies will be available for collection.
- Year 7 and Year 8 will now remain at home until the 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- If you believe your child is eligible to attend as a keyworker and or vulnerable child but have not received an email confirmation please email [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

Please be aware that due to the ever changing Government guidelines regarding Covid-19 in schools, this information may be subject to further changes.

Thank you for your support and understanding during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

**Jo Gant**

**Headteacher**