

Aspiration
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Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

IMPORTANT Information for Parents regarding Start of Term Arrangements and COVID19 Contact Tracing over the Christmas Holiday period

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you would have heard on the media, the government has made a last minute announcement regarding the start of term 2021.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/staggered-rollout-of-coronavirus-testing-for-secondary-schools-and-colleges?utm_source=295ddfed-a544-417c-9c7e-6799d01fdf0b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Monday 4th January: Staff Inset day - School closed to students

Tuesday 5th January: School will reopen to Years 11 and Year 13 students only
- Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 students will be taught remotely

Monday 11th January: All Years will return to School

Please can I remind parents of the need for their child to take a second COVID-19 test in the New Year, around 4 -7 days before they return to school so that we can ensure that anyone who may be infectious does not return to school and immediately start an outbreak. I attach, a copy of the [letter](#) dated Friday 11th December, sent by Mike Gogarty, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Essex County Council as a reminder on how to book these tests. Epping Forest is an area of rising transmission and mass testing for secondary school children.

We were already prepared with our 'Contingency' Blended Learning plan. Please see the document [attached](#) for the structure of the school learning provision during this first week. Students in Key Stage 3 will receive a combination of 'live lesson' provision and assignments set on google classroom. Years 10 and 12 will access all their lessons remotely via 'live links' and Years 11 and 13 will attend the school site for lessons. Where teachers are '**live streaming**' their lessons from school, then please refer to the [attached plan](#) for timings. Teachers will make their '**live links**' available before the lessons. Please do see our website '[Home Learning page](#)' for full details.



Before accessing these live lessons, please do read our 'Live lesson etiquette' guide below. There is also a helpful video to explain this. I also need to state that when joining live lessons, all students must join using their Roding Valley High School email address. Anyone trying to join using a personal email address will be denied access by the teacher (for safeguarding reasons).

 [Live lesson etiquette.pdf](#)

 [Live Lesson Etiquette](#)

For technical support with accessing live lessons (where to find live lesson links etc.), please click below:

 [Using Google Meet for Live lessons](#)

If your son/daughter cannot access these lessons live, then subject teachers will continue to store **lesson material** (PowerPoints and other documents) on our usual Google Classroom platform in the 'material' section for each subject. This lesson material can be accessed at any time of the day, and will still allow your son/daughter to keep on track with their learning.

Please note that in some cases, our teachers will be teaching students both in real time (face to face) and live streaming to those at home. I'm sure you will appreciate that there may be some minor technical difficulties; but we will do everything we can to resolve them and continue to provide top quality teaching.

All available staff will be on the school site delivering their 'live lessons' and there will be an on-site provision for children who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, in that they do not have any access to IT at home or are children of critical workers. We will make contact with our more vulnerable families but please let Miss Dyer, sdyer@rodingvalley.net know before **Tuesday 5th January** if you believe your child should attend.

We will be sending out additional food vouchers to all our Free School Meal families working remotely in the first week of the new term.

We have a small supply of Chromebooks now available from the government. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and you require support with IT equipment, once again, please contact Miss Dyer, sdyer@rodingvalley.net

You may also have heard in the media about the government's ideas for mass COVID 19 testing and testing of close contacts in secondary schools from January. There is currently little guidance on how this would practically be achieved both in terms of safety, capacity or logistics. It is important to share with our school community that we have only just been informed of this development. There is a significant amount of preparation required before this approach can be implemented and we have not yet received any of the equipment or training necessary for this testing to take place. Therefore, the current approach to contact tracing, self-isolation for close contacts and remote learning will continue until such time that a testing approach is implemented. Until we receive the equipment and guidance I cannot yet confirm a timescale for any changes. We will write to you with further information about the approach including the approach to consent, once we have more details, in the new year.

As you know schools have played a vital role in reducing the spread of COVID19 over the last 9 months. One way in which they have done this is by undertaking contact tracing on behalf of the Essex Contact Tracing team. They identify any individuals who have been in

close contact at school with someone who has tested positive for COVID19, during the time that is considered the contagious period. This is from two days before the person's symptoms are displayed. Those individuals are then required to self-isolate for 14 days because they are at risk of having contracted COVID19 and being contagious themselves.

This contact tracing will not be taking place in the usual way during the Christmas break when schools are closed and there is less chance of school-based contacts existing.

Please follow the guidance below if your child begins to show symptoms of COVID19 during the Christmas break.

1) If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 within 48 hours of being in school.

- You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.
- If the test result is positive for COVID19, you must inform your school, who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

You should contact the school by email on COVID@rodingvalley.net between the hours of 9am and 12pm. You **must** provide the following:

- Name of your child,
- Date of symptoms starting,
- Names of students that are in close friendship groups from outside their classes (but only those they spent time with in school in that immediate 48hour period)

COVID@rodingvalley.net is the **only email** that we will be accessing regarding positive cases, please do not email individual staff members or the Office as these will not necessarily be picked up in the appropriate time frame necessary. **Please do not leave messages on the school phone lines.** You can email outside of these times but we will be actioning Track and Trace during the hours of 9am and 12pm. Please do check your emails in the first days of the holidays, as we may have to contact you if your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case.

2) However, if your child develops symptoms of COVID19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school

- You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.
- If the test result is positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, Monday 21st December, you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/
- You should only contact the school if your child will be absent, in time for the first day of the new term.

3) If your child has no symptoms of COVID19 but tests positive within 48 hours of being in school

- It is important to follow the guidance around accessing a test only when the individual is showing signs of COVID19. However, if your child is asymptomatic and returns a positive test result within 48 hours of last being in school, please let the school know straight away.

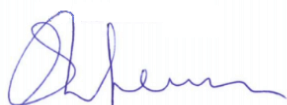
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If you are contacted by the school because your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and ongoing support, wishing you a happy but safe time with your families over the festive season.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sharon Jenner
Head teacher