



Fairlands Middle School

Caring and Inspirational



18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As my letter from yesterday indicated, we face another ill-timed and rapidly changing set of guidelines and instructions from central government. To say that I, along with other school leaders across the country, are both frustrated and concerned at the timing of these instructions is an understatement. Information continues to arrive through the media with no time to plan appropriately.

Yesterday afternoon, it was announced that all children of secondary school age (Year 7 and above) would face a staggered start to the new school term in January. This is to allow schools to set up mass testing facilities "in response to a fast moving situation". We are unsure what this will mean and the impact it will have upon us.

The announcement does mean that we need to make different arrangements for the start of next term. These are as follows:

- Monday 4 January remains an INSET day for staff training and school is closed to all pupils.
- Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will return to school as planned on Tuesday 5 January.
- Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will move to remote teaching from Tuesday 5 January. All pupils will be expected to attend school from Monday 11 January.

I realise that this will cause some disruption to families and apologise for the issues that may be encountered. Year 7 and Year 8 pupils need to log on to their Edmodo tutor page at 9 am on Tuesday 5 January for guidance from their tutor about how work will be assigned. This tutor time will run until 10 am, following which work will be available for pupils as per their usual timetable. There will be four days of remote learning.

I am desperately sorry that I cannot share any further information on how this might look at this time. I would thank families in advance for your patience whilst we await further information. Please do keep an eye on our website and Twitter feed for updates over the festive period.

Have an enjoyable Christmas and 2021!

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



Fairlands Middle School

Masons Way, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3PG, Tel: (01934) 743186 Absence Line: (01934) 743908
E-Mail: office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk Website: www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Stefan McHale
Deputy Headteachers: Helen Heffernan and Kate Persaud
Associate Leaders: Robert Cooling and Matthew Vincent SENDCo

Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224