



4 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Reopening of Schools – January 2021

Happy New Year!

You will have seen in the last week that the Secretary of State for Education issued updated information on the reopening of schools following the Christmas break. These announcements have a few implications for us as a school;

- Year 7 & Year 8 pupils will now return a week later on Monday 18th January
- Key worker and vulnerable pupils in Year 7 & Year 8 will join us by invitation from tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January. School transport will run as normal
- Year 5 & Year 6 pupils will continue to attend from tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January, as planned
- Cheddar and the surrounding area has been moved into Tier 4, with families joining us from North Somerset in Tier 3

Remote learning will, therefore, begin for our Year 7 & Year 8 pupils from tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January. Pupils should follow their normal timetable and log into tutor sessions with their tutor as normal. If you feel that you qualify for a key worker place and haven't heard from us, please contact the school directly, or email office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

Testing for COVID-19 in Schools

You will be aware that schools are expected to administer and manage lateral-flow COVID tests in school. This will be for the older pupils in Year 7 & Year 8 initially. We will spend this week completing the training and deciding how best to implement this for the staff and pupils. I will write again later in the week when we have a clearer plan for how this will happen. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to support this process on our behalf.

I appreciate that there are concerns and anxieties regarding the reopening of school following the rise in cases across our communities, especially in Year 5 & Year 6, along with the expectations for staff and pupils to be tested in schools. Although I cannot authorise any absence for families choosing to keep their child/children at home, I fully understand why some may do so. If your child is experiencing any symptoms, please contact us if you are unsure of what to do. Please be assured that the decisions we make have the safety and well-being of everyone in our school community in mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



Fairlands Middle School

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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, Kate Persaud, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Designated Safeguarding Deputies
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224