



Headteacher: Mr D. Williams
Burton Wood • Weobley
Hereford • HR4 8ST

Tel: 01544 318159 • Fax: 01544 312900
admin@weobleyhigh.hereford.sch.uk

Friday 18th December 2020

Dear parent / carer,

We were informed yesterday afternoon that secondary schools are to have a staggered start to term in January and that we would be tasked with organising mass testing for pupils and staff. I received more detail late yesterday evening and have been working overnight to try to digest all the guidance and put together a feasible plan.

There is a lot of information to give you and I am still awaiting specific guidance on certain aspects; this is due next week. Nevertheless this is the plan for January as it stands:

- All Year 11 pupils to return to school on 4th January as planned and to follow their normal curriculum. All other year groups will be required to stay at home during that week and will learn remotely via our Google Classroom remote learning system. Please see notes at the end of this letter for further detail on this.
- Pupils considered vulnerable and children of critical workers should also attend from 4th January as usual. Detailed definitions of these groups have been placed in the 'COVID-19 ADVICE' section on the front page of our website. These pupils will have access to ICT facilities in school so that they can also access the remote learning provision, although they will have the necessary support and may also receive face-to-face teaching at times.
- We have a limited amount of laptops we can lend to families. If you require a laptop for that first week, please email the school admin address and we will contact you on the 4th January to arrange this for you.
- School transport will be running as usual, despite the fact that there will be fewer passengers.
- Year 10 exams will be postponed and will begin on Tuesday 12th January.
- Families on Free School Meals will have received the 'COVID Winter Grant', nevertheless, if your child is on Free School Meals, is working remotely during that week and requires a packed lunch, then please email the school admin address before 4th January and we will arrange for these to be ready for you to collect on a daily basis.
- I have limited information on the mass testing however I would hope to offer this as swiftly as possible, depending on when the tests arrive in school and how quickly we can set up a facility and carry out training. I have already pulled together how we could operate this and would like to get this underway during the week beginning 4th January. The pupils who will be in school that week will have priority and then, if possible, we will offer it to other year groups. If we manage to extend the testing to other year groups during the first week, we will contact you as soon as possible so that you can arrange to bring your children in for testing using school transport or by making your own arrangements. My understanding is that these pupils will only need to be in school for a limited time to do their test and then return home to carry on learning remotely.
- Each pupil is to be offered 2 tests within a few days of each other so it will be a considerable undertaking. Testing is voluntary but we are being strongly encouraged to participate. I assume



Weobley
High School

Headteacher: Mr D. Williams
Burton Wood • Weobley
Hereford • HR4 8ST

Tel: 01544 318159 • Fax: 01544 312900
admin@weobleyhigh.hereford.sch.uk

that consent will be required and so we will contact you about this after Christmas when we should have more detail.

- All pupils should be in school for face-to-face teaching as usual from Monday 11th January. Testing will still continue but on a smaller scale and as part of the school day. It is being proposed that testing will be integral to ensuring that pupils will not have to self-isolate if they are close contacts of a positive case. We may require volunteers to help run this and so please do contact us if you feel that you may be able to help.

I hope I have covered everything. I have learnt over this period that things do change very quickly and so I have endeavoured to respond quickly so that you have as much notice and information as possible, as swiftly as possible.

I thank you once again for your support and cooperation at this unprecedented time and wish you a merry and restful Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams

REMOTE LEARNING

During the first Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, Weobley High School successfully implemented Google Classroom as our main online learning platform. Since then we have further developed this online learning platform so that we are well-prepared to help pupils learn remotely. Staff and pupils have undergone training on the use of the software.

Remote Learning Plan

- Pupils and classes have been enrolled on Google Classroom, which will be the main form of communication and platform to set work.
- Pupils will follow their current timetable, which will also include a daily period of registration/ form time at 9.00 am each morning.
- Staff will be asked to set lessons on a daily basis for the lessons that would be taught that day. This is to ensure that pupils are not overloaded with work at the beginning of the week.
- Pupils will be set the same amount of work that would be expected of them when in school, although time should be allowed for pupils to understand and process what is being asked of them.

If any pupil has any issues using Google classroom, they can send an email to:

googleclassroom@weobleyhigh.co.uk