



31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent & Carer

## Start of Term January 2021 (update 31.12.20)

I do hope you have been able to enjoy this very different Christmas period. As you are no doubt aware from the media, the Government has updated its guidance regarding the start of term. Because of the surge in Covid cases and the fact that the infection rate is particularly high among the secondary school age group, to minimise the risk of transmission at the start of term and support the roll out of mass testing of students, the start of term has been delayed. Therefore, secondary schools in England will be open to students in exam years (principally years 11 and 13) from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, but not fully re-open to all students until Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January at the earliest.

The school will be open, however, for vulnerable children and those of critical workers on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. If you are a critical worker or your child is identified as vulnerable and would like your child to attend school from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January onwards, please complete the survey which can be found here: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7TBkFO05YU-N3Yhzdei1b73E4\\_gdiEdLo1JnGMQOwVtUNFJHU1pZUVNUMTRUMzhaWVRQMlpKTVJBUy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7TBkFO05YU-N3Yhzdei1b73E4_gdiEdLo1JnGMQOwVtUNFJHU1pZUVNUMTRUMzhaWVRQMlpKTVJBUy4u)

Please complete this survey no later than Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. If you have changed your view having previously submitted this form, please re-submit. We can only accept children on Monday from those parents who have completed the survey as this will be used to inform staffing levels.

The definition of who constitutes as a 'critical worker' and/or 'vulnerable' child may be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

All students (including those in school) will receive their learning remotely for the first week of term (i.e. from Monday 4<sup>th</sup>) and they are required to engage fully with this. This will continue for the second week (w/b 11<sup>th</sup> January), with the exception of years 11 and 13 and vulnerable children and those of critical workers who will be in school.

The term will begin on Monday with an assembly. The link for the Teams assembly on Monday at 8.40am is <http://bit.ly/3n3cMwn> Please share this link with your child. Work will be set for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January as for a day closure with work set via ClassCharts. From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January students will follow a normal school day timetable. Students who are in school will be in uniform, follow the remote learning curriculum and the normal timings of the school day whilst in school.

Please read through the Remote Learning section on our website to find out full details of what we will offer plus a Remote Learning Toolkit which offers tips on how to use our apps and log in to the school system. <http://www.willinkschool.org.uk/Remote-Learning/>

If students have forgotten their passwords to log on, please email [forgottenpassword@willink.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:forgottenpassword@willink.w-berks.sch.uk) If students have forgotten their ClassCharts password, please ask them to email their tutor.



# the willink school

Head Teacher: Mr P Fry MA Deputy Head: Mr A Sizer MA Assistant Deputy Head: Mrs N Browning BA

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Early next week, probably Tuesday, I shall write to inform you about the mass testing programme. At the present time we know little more than has been stated in the media. We shall receive further information from the Department for Education, health authorities and, possibly, the armed forces, on Monday about how we can support the roll out of this programme.

Once again, I apologise that this change is communicated at such short notice.

May I wish you a happy, healthy and ultimately optimistic new year.

Yours faithfully

Peter Fry, Head