

2 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Reopening of the Junior School

I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable break over the Christmas period and wish you all a Happy New Year! While I am aware it may have not been the festive period you had planned, I am positive that our Junior School children kept it entertaining, nonetheless.

Our first two days of 2021 have certainly been eventful and as we continue to follow government guidance, I write to you with a further update following the Headmaster's communications last week.

1. I can confirm that no junior school pupils (other than vulnerable children or the children of critical workers) will return to school on Tuesday 5 January and the early indication is that this will be for at least the first two weeks of term. We will await confirmation from the government, but currently the earliest return date is likely to be Monday 18 January.
2. The government has given schools flexibility to make independent decisions regarding provision for Nursery pupils. As I am certain you will appreciate, running hybrid provision (remote and face-to-face) concurrently for our youngest pupils is incredibly challenging and does not lend itself well to the free-flow nature of Nursery education. We are keen to take a decision that is in the interest of our St Dunstan's Nursery community and therefore request that all Nursery parents email the Junior School Office at jsoffice@stdunstans.org.uk to indicate whether your preference is for school to remain open to our Nursery pupils during this period, or to close school to Nursery pupils, offering a high-quality remote provision instead. Please ensure that you email before 1000 on Monday 4 January to enable us to take a decision, confirm details with you and plan accordingly for the following day.
3. Critical workers are those whose work is critical to the coronavirus response and include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. A full list of critical workers can be found [HERE](#). If you are a critical worker and require your child to attend school from Tuesday 5 January, please e-mail the Junior School Office on jsoffice@stdunstans.org.uk stating the name and form of your child and your role as a critical worker. We request that you e-mail by 1000 on Monday 4 January so that appropriate arrangements can be made and so that we are able to communicate details on timings and locations. Pupils will be supervised whilst they join their lessons remotely with the rest of their class, with appropriate safety measures in place.

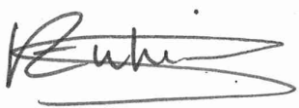
4. The pastoral and SEND teams are currently reviewing the list of pupils who may be considered vulnerable and we will be in contact with those families by 1200 on Monday 4 January to offer on-site provision from Tuesday. Pupils will be supervised whilst they join their lessons remotely with the rest of their class, with appropriate safety measures in place, and the pastoral and SEND teams will be available for additional support, as required. Pupils who attend intervention groups with the SEND team, will be able to continue to do so, either face-to-face or remotely, in liaison with parents.
5. St Dunstan's remains very proud of our highly successful and comprehensive remote learning strategy. For all phases of enforced pupil learning from home, St Dunstan's will offer a full remote learning experience. Pupils will be given a timetable to follow, including lessons which will be delivered interactively on Teams. Timetables will be issued by Form Teachers on Monday 4 January to indicate where live lessons will be delivered and where work will be set on Firefly to be accessed at home.
6. I recommend that any parents of new pupils ensure that your child is able to log-in and access both Microsoft Teams and Firefly over the course of this weekend, using the details shared with you at the beginning of term in your child's reading record/pupil planner. Should you encounter any difficulties logging in, please email jsict@stdunstans.org.uk for further assistance and do continue to use this email address should you encounter any technical difficulties. Form Teachers will be unable to resolve technical difficulties when they are live teaching so please ensure that you use the ICT email address instead. If your child is not new to the school, it would also be beneficial if you could ensure all log-in details are working successfully ahead of next week.
7. Our remote Forder Programme will not begin until Monday 11 January, according to the expected start date. Mrs Carmichael-Line will be in touch next week with further information about how these activities can be accessed remotely.
8. All pupils will need to 'Join' their Form Time session according to your child's calendar on Teams on Tuesday 5 January. Timings will be staggered in different sections of the school for parents who have children in different year groups. Your child's Form Teacher will outline how this period of remote learning will work in more detail to your child and these Form Time sessions each day will enable pupils to hear about the day ahead.
9. With our 7+ assessments taking a different format due to the school closure, I can confirm that remote provision will be available to all pupils on Wednesday 6 January.
10. If the pandemic has had a particular impact on your family over the Christmas period, please do reach out to the relevant Head of Section so that we can offer your child support, even if that is remotely.

The sense of community that has permeated throughout the pandemic leaves me in no doubt that the next few weeks of remote learning will continue to go smoothly, while also ensuring we continue to adopt an ambitious and forward-thinking approach to the education

we offer at St Dunstan's. I would like to thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation and would like to remind you that while we cannot open the doors in a literal sense, our 'open door' approach remains; please do get in touch with any questions or queries you may have.

I wish you all a lovely final weekend of the holidays and look forward to seeing your children remotely next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Whitwood', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Miss L Whitwood
Head of Junior School