

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, I am writing to outline the plans for students to return to school this week.

This morning we have been in touch with Staffordshire's Local Outbreak team and together reviewed our school risk assessment. We have also gathered information on the local rates of virus transmission within Lichfield and the surrounding areas.

The advice on the new variant of the Virus is to go back to a strict use of the 2 metre social distancing rule (alongside wearing face masks and washing hands) in order to reduce the risk of transmission to an acceptable level. **This means that we will only be able to have a very small number of students in school at any one time.**

We will be offering in-school provision this week to our most vulnerable group of students. Our assessment of student vulnerability is based on our knowledge of the risks around individual students and their families. We have liaised with other agencies as we made these decisions. These students will be invited into school from tomorrow (Wednesday 6th January 2021) and these parents will be contacted by the end of today.

The Government is expecting us to make fulltime provision for the children of all critical workers. **We are not able to fulfil this expectation within the current risk assessment for Queen's Croft.** The latest version of this risk assessment document will be posted on the school website today.

However, we will have some limited capacity to provide part-time provision for the children of critical workers from Thursday 7th January.

This is the link to the Government's definition of critical workers.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you are a critical worker and would like your child to access some in-school provision, please let us know by emailing the school office. Tomorrow morning (Wednesday) we will review this information and decide how much support we can offer to each student. We will then contact parents tomorrow afternoon to confirm arrangements for the rest of this week.

QUEENSCROFT

CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS

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If you wish to apply for a leave of absence for your child to work at home over the next few weeks, please contact Mrs Sue Hewitt in the school office who will provide you with the consent form for this.

I know how difficult this will be for many of you and I'm sorry that we are unable to do more. This change in our school risk assessment is due to the most recent advice on keeping everyone safe from the new variant of the virus.

We will be offering staff and students who are in school the opportunity to take a lateral flow Covid test. We hope that this helps us to identify individuals who have the virus but who do not show any symptoms. Students who are offered in-school provision will be sent consent forms and more information about these tests.

Your child's classroom teacher or support staff will be in touch later today to confirm arrangements for remote learning for the rest of this week. We will be planning some whole school learning projects over the next few days and will share these with you as soon as possible.



The first of these will be about Calendars – so if you have any spare Calendars around the house – don't throw them away!

This is such a frustrating time for everyone and I know that many of you will be feeling very anxious about the coming days. Please do keep in touch with us. We are looking forward to the better days ahead when we're able to be together again.

Your sincerely

Debbie Bailey
Headteacher