



**THE
COWPLAIN
SCHOOL**

Headteacher
Mr IR Gates MA NPQH

Dear Parents

Following the announcement to Parliament yesterday from the Secretary of State for Education, I am writing to you to outline changes to the start of the Spring 2021 term.

His announcement supersedes the previous advice given to schools 10 days ago, so please disregard the letter I sent you at the start of the Christmas Holiday. Therefore, the information below has been updated so please read it carefully as it includes important dates and information about accessing learning from home:

Monday 4th January 2021	<p>This will be an additional INSET day so that planning can be conducted to implement remote learning and testing. Therefore, <u>no students should attend school on 4th January.</u></p> <p>Students can access online resources such as Hegarty Maths, Bitesize, Oak Academy etc., focusing on the topic information for self-isolation work, which is still valid, as detailed on our website here: http://www.cowplainschool.co.uk/learning/self-isolation-and-lockdown-information/</p>
Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January 2021	<p>Only children of key workers, ‘vulnerable’ children (those with an EHCP or assigned a social worker) and those attending the Resilience Centre should attend school. Those students should attend at the usual time and go straight to their learning community where further instructions will be provided by their Pastoral Leader.</p> <p>If you intend your child to attend as a keyworker/ vulnerable child, please can you let us know by emailing office@cowplainschool.co.uk.</p> <p>During this time, all other students will receive online learning as detailed on our website using this link http://www.cowplainschool.co.uk/learning/self-isolation-and-lockdown-information/</p> <p>Students in Years 7-9 will receive recorded lessons as detailed above. However, those in Years 10 and 11 will receive ‘live’ lessons from their normal teacher. They should access these lessons through Google classrooms, following their normal timetable. Mrs Clemas will provide an email to you by the afternoon of Monday 4th reminding your child of how to access live lessons and will update the information on the website accordingly.</p>

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Monday 11th – Friday 15th January 2021	Year 11 students return to school as well as children of key workers, 'vulnerable' children and those attending the Resilience Centre should attend school. All other children should continue working at home.
Monday 18th January 2021 onwards	All children should attend school* <i>*It may be that there is a staggered start to allow for testing</i>

As stated in my previous letter, we have been promised more laptops from the DFE, which haven't yet arrived. Please let us know if your child cannot access their learning electronically and we will try to help, either by providing one of these machines or in other ways.

Children accessing free school meals will receive vouchers; please give us a few days into the new term to forward them to you.

Again, I find myself writing to you a few days before the start of term with significant changes, which I know is very frustrating for parents, children and staff. As always, I will attempt to keep you updated with any further changes and must emphasize, based on my experience so far, that the dates above may change.

Next week, please keep checking your inbox as I will need to send you very important information about the COVID-19 testing programme for students and staff we have been asked to implement. As always, I will attempt to keep this correspondence brief but there are important details that I will need you to consider.

In the meantime, it's New Year's Eve tonight and I hope, with good news about the vaccination rollout, we can hopefully look forward to a better 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mr I R Gates
Headteacher