

4 January 2021
KOn/CGn

Dear Parent/Carer

This evening the Prime Minister announced that the UK's coronavirus alert level has increased due to the speed with which the new variant of the virus is spreading and is now at five, the highest level, which means that there is a risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed. A new **national lockdown** will be in place from 5 January. The Government instruction is to stay at home, with extreme measures enforced by law, while vaccines are rolled out.

This means there will not be a full return to school for all primary children as we had expected: all Primary and Secondary schools and colleges will be closed.

From Tuesday 5 January King's Oak Academy will be open **only for the children of critical workers** and those classed as **vulnerable** to attend on site. We will provide remote learning to be completed at home for all other children.

Critical workers and On-Site Provision

The definition of critical workers is attached at the end of this letter. To request for your child to attend school because you are a critical worker and will be going to work during this lockdown period please **complete the e-form at the bottom of this section**. We will then contact you to confirm arrangements and give you drop off/pick up times for your child.

Reception – Year 5 (Acorn)

Please complete the critical worker place request form by [clicking on this link](#).

*N.B. If you are a critical worker and urgently require a space in the Acorn tomorrow morning, please arrive with your child at their normal drop off time. We will endeavour to ensure that we can facilitate a space for your child.

We ask that you only use this service tomorrow if there is not an alternative childcare arrangement available for you to use. This will help us make sure that we can create safe, critical worker bubbles for each year.

Years 7-11

Families who requested a critical worker space in the academy have been contacted this afternoon to confirm their child's space. This place offer remains valid. To ensure that we open the critical worker bubbles safely, we will be starting the lateral flow device testing procedure tomorrow, prioritising the students who will be learning on site.

If your child is learning on-site tomorrow, please could you ask your child to arrive at 8.30am (the same time as previously arranged) but to go straight to the Federation House gates. A member of the Senior Team will greet your child on arrival and help them register for the lateral flow test. If you have not completed the lateral flow device test consent form or require a critical worker place in the academy please complete the attached e-form ([click here](#))

Remote Learning

Reception – Year 5

Tomorrow morning you will receive a 2 day remote learning pack which contains a variety of educational

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activities for your child to complete. During the morning, you will also receive a well-being and check-in phone call from a member of staff so that we can answer questions you might have and confirm what electronic devices/internet capacity you have available for your child to use when we start teaching our live lessons from Wednesday 6 January. If you have any ICT related concerns (e.g. require paper packs of resources) please let the member of staff know during this phone call.

On Tuesday afternoon we will send (via Seesaw) the on-line learning schedule, enrolment and on-line safety information pack.

Years 7-11

Our previously arranged remote learning programme will continue as planned. Please ask your child to check their Insight accounts to access the Teams lesson links. If you have any IT access difficulties, please email koacovid@clf.uk or call 01179 927127.

Year 11 Students and Public Examinations

We had expected that Year 11 students would be able to return to school from Monday 11 January. This is no longer possible: remote learning will continue to be provided and monitored.

In this evening's announcement, the Prime Minister announced that the public examination series will not go ahead. At this time, we do not have more information than what was shared in the national briefing with regards to what amendments might be made to the Year 11 assessments.

We are aware that we are due to hold a small number of vocational exams this/next week. As soon as we have more information, we will write to Year 11 students specifically to confirm whether these exams will take place as planned. In this letter we will also outline how we will continue to support, educate and prepare them for the remainder of the academic year.

Free School Meals:

We are currently finalising our arrangements to ensure that we continue to support children who receive free school meals. More information will follow during the next 24-48hours regarding how families can continue to access free school meal support.

Rollout of mass testing:

The planned rollout of mass testing in Secondary schools for asymptomatic cases of the coronavirus will be paused at this time, with exception of staff who are working on-site and children in Years 7-11 who are attending the critical worker bubble.

I hope that this letter offers you some clarity regarding our short term education and support plans at King's Oak Academy. I anticipate that I will write to you again later this week with more information as new legislation is formed and guidance is shared with schools.

Thank you in advance for your help, support and patience. I wish you and your family well as we enter this new National Lockdown. Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you have any questions or queries; we will always be there to help.

Kind regards



Katherine Ogden
Principal

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Current Government definition of 'Critical Workers'

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below.

Health and social care

Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, other frontline health and social care staff, those working in health and social care supply chain

Education and childcare

Childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals

Key public services

Justice system, religious staff, charity workers, those responsible for managing deceased, public service broadcasters

Local and national government

Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of Covid-19 response and delivery of EU transition, essential public services

Food and other necessary goods

Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, and provision of other key goods e.g. hygiene, medicine

Public safety and national security

Police and police support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue service employees, National Crime Agency staff, border security, prison and probation staff

Transport and border

Those who keep air, water, road, rail passenger and freight transport modes and supply chains operational

Utilities, communication and financial services

Essential financial service staff, oil, gas, electricity, water sectors, IT and data sector and primary industry supplies to Covid-19 response, civil nuclear, chemical, telecoms staff, postal services and delivery, payment providers, waste disposal sectors.

For further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

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