



HEATHLANDS

Nursery, Primary and Secondary Provision, Day & Residential
BSL Training & Resource Centre



Co-Head Teachers – Mrs L Reeves Costi and Mrs S Shields

19th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly we want to begin by thanking you all for your continued support with remote learning and the very changed circumstances. Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure learning is continuous and as smooth as possible. The children have responded fantastically, which has been a pleasure to see.

The government guidance is that during the lockdown, all schools are to switch to remote learning, except for vulnerable children, this includes children with an EHCP which includes all students at Heathlands. In school we have had small groups of students whose parents are key workers or children who find learning at home difficult with the majority of learners joining via Zoom. However, recent guidance stipulates that special schools should be open to all students whose parents wish them to attend.

You can read the full guidance for special schools here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953215/Guidance_for_special_schools__specialist_post-16_providers_and_alternative_provision_during_the_national_lockdown.pdf

From Monday 25th January 2021, Heathlands School will be open to all students who wish to attend.

This includes Heath House. The DfE guidance states:

All schools and colleges are expected to allow and strongly encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend. Parents or carers of vulnerable children and young people are strongly encouraged to take up the place.

We cannot enforce attendance during lockdown and if your child does not attend it will be recorded as an authorised absence. All staff will be returning to school and children who remain at home, will be learning remotely by Zooming into the classroom or being contacted directly by staff with regards to the learning that is set for them.

With this letter is an updated risk assessment. The highlighted sections show the latest changes and to summarise they are:

- Tighter 'bubbles' of children. 2/3 classes in lower school and KS3/KS4 bubbles in upper school.
- Lower school children to eat in classrooms.
- Taxis asked to transport primary and secondary students separately unless they are siblings.
- CV19 testing of all staff and secondary students with consent every week.
- Close contacts of positive cases to self-isolate at home for 10 days.
- **Monday morning start of 10am to allow staff testing before beginning the week.**
- **Early finish of 1.10pm on Friday for Lower school** to enable teachers to have planning time.
- Children to wear their own clothes daily to allow **fresh clothes to be worn each day.**
- No after school clubs (i.e homework club) to be run during the lockdown.
- In the event of a staff shortage, partial closures will go into effect.



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- No children who are extremely clinically vulnerable should attend school during this time, but remain at home and learn remotely.

We have begun the Lateral Flow testing of staff and upper school students who are currently attending school and it has gone well. However, **we still need the consent for the majority of upper school students. If you have not yet completed this, please do so here:**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Vr11Jv8Z1Ue0qnOuRm1_A19pgRLk6ldOlByHXVWNcsRUQVNIVzRHUKRDTkFTTVRRQ1M2T0NOVFZOMy4u

If you do not wish for your child to be tested, please email at admin@heathlands.herts.sch.uk You can refer to the letter dated 4.01.21 for more information which is also saved on our website under the Parents tab named Coronavirus.

It continues to be essential that if your child is unwell for any reason, do NOT send them into school. The same applies if anyone in the household is unwell, please keep everyone at home. It is vital that we all work together to safeguard the school community so that learning can continue.

Please take time to read through the risk assessment, we need **a response from all parents to say if they WILL or WILL NOT return their child to school next week.** Please email the school office, admin@heathlands.herts.sch.uk **by the end of the day on Wednesday 20th January 2021.** This will enable us to assess our pupil numbers and ensure they are all planned for. You can also use this time to arrange for your school transport to be ready for Monday 25th at 10am.

Be aware that in these difficult times, rules and guidance are often changing. We will keep you informed if there are any further changes to these plans.

What parents need to do next:

1. Read the updated risk assessment
2. Contact the school and state if your child will or will not be attending from Monday 25th January 2021.
3. Complete the testing consent forms (upper school)
4. Ensure transport is arranged for Monday 25th January 2021 to arrive at school for 10am.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Lesley Reeves Costi and Sarah Shields
Co-Head Teachers