



Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, I apologise for writing to you after your child has finished school for the term to notify you about a change to the arrangements for the beginning of the spring term.

You may already be aware that the DfE made two significant announcements yesterday:

- Schools have been asked to switch to remote learning for the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January for all pupils apart from primary, year 11 and for pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils
- Mass testing of pupils and staff will be rolled out in January in all schools to reduce transmission of the virus and the disruption this causes to education

You can find a press release written by the DfE about the staggered start to the new term and the intended roll out of testing in schools [here](#). The DfE have also published a blog answering some of the most frequently asked questions already emerging about testing [here](#).

Yesterday we received a handbook outlining the arrangements we need to put in place for testing staff and pupils and we will read this carefully during the Christmas break. As you are already aware, we had planned an INSET day for the 4<sup>th</sup> January, we will use time on this day to ensure that we understand the latest detailed arrangements for mass testing and we will begin to put the arrangements for this in place, this will include communicating more details to you and requesting your permissions.

Remote teaching will begin on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Pupils will be following their **normal timetables (week 4)**. More information about accessing our remote provision can be found on our website or by clicking [here](#). *We will write to you again on the 4<sup>th</sup> Jan to confirm arrangements for their return date to school.*

We are aware that some families have still not collected their laptops and we would ask that these are collected on the 4<sup>th</sup> January between the times of 10am and 3pm. If your child does not know their password details, then they must contact the school on the 4<sup>th</sup> January by emailing [office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk)

**Year 11 should attend school as normal from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Primary school children should attend as normal from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Children educated in our 'Blossom' provision should attend as normal from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

We think that we know our children of key workers and our vulnerable children in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who will need to attend school on site. We will ring you to confirm that your child will be attending our small school provision on 4<sup>th</sup> January to confirm arrangements. If we do not contact you and you consider that you should be accessing the provision on site, then please email [office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk) before 12pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> January at the latest so that we know precise numbers. We will contact you on the 4<sup>th</sup> January to inform you of the plan for FSM for pupils working at home in that first week.

Once again, I am sorry to have written to you with changes to our arrangements so late before the Christmas break. I assure you that we will continue to do our very best to deal with the dynamic situation we are in, and I am so grateful to you for your constant support during a very difficult time.

In the new year we will continue to strive for the very best for your child; in the meantime, I do hope that you are able to stay safe and enjoy rest and peace during the break.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Roach  
Executive Principal