

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

Federation Headteacher: Miss Z J Linington

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Dear Parents/Carers

The Department for Education announced on Thursday 17 December that schools with secondary aged pupils should delay the return of all pupils to school until 11 January so that mass testing can be carried out that week.

This is the guidance received by all schools:

"All schools with secondary-age pupils (including special schools and alternative provision) will be offered the opportunity to test their pupils, reaching as many pupils as possible from the week of the 4 January. The government will encourage as many as possible to take up the offer.

In these schools with secondary-age pupils, vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in exam year groups (primarily years 11 and 13) are expected to access on-site education provision from each school's advertised first day of term and should be prioritised for testing. All other pupils should not attend that week and must be provided with remote education until 11 January when they should return to school and resume face-to-face attendance. Pupils will not need to have had a test in order to return to school on 11 January."

Edward Peake is a middle school, deemed secondary and there would be little point in testing key stage 3 pupils (years 7 & 8) without testing key stage 2 (years 5 & 6) pupils and staff as we all work in the same building. At the time of writing this, there is no clarity at all on the position of schools that have secondary aged pupils and primary aged pupils. We have spent the whole day seeking further guidance but have been unsuccessful.

There are three options:

1. School will be closed to all pupils other than those children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils
2. School will be closed to year 7 & 8 pupils other than those children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils
3. School will be open to all pupils

Option 1 is the most likely, unless we are directed to do otherwise by Central Bedfordshire Council or the DfE. Therefore, Edward Peake is likely to be **closed to all pupils other than those children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils until 11 January 2021**. All teaching and learning will be done remotely via Google classroom. A Google form will be sent home for critical worker parents to indicate the nature of their employment.



The final decision cannot be taken until **Monday 4 January 2021**. I know that this causes difficulties with planning and preparing children for school or trying to find childcare but until we at Edward Peake receive more information, we cannot inform you of the final decision. I can only apologise, but it is a situation not of my making.

Like you, I look forward to a return to "normal"!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ZJ Linington', written in a cursive style.

Miss Z J Linington
Federation Headteacher