



## CV19 testing and changes to routines 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

18 December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I trust that you are well and looking forward to the festive period. I write in regards to the government announcement from Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, issued yesterday on Thursday 17 December 2020, regarding the staggered roll-out of coronavirus rapid testing in secondary schools in January 2021.

### CV19 Testing

We will request consent from the parents of pupils that will be invited to take a test where appropriate. Please use this link to complete the consent form by 12.00 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in order for us to plan ahead: [CV19 rapid testing consent form](#) It is anticipated that we will receive further support and guidance from the government regarding the planning and roll out of the tests imminently. We will communicate the impact of this to yourselves as soon as possible.

### The majority of pupils required to stay at home from 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> January

Please note that pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9, unless individually invited into school, **will be required to stay at home from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January**. They will be offered full-time remote learning for the first four days of term as per their normal timetable and attendance at these sessions will be tracked. All pupils should be back in school as normal on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. These pupils will not need to have a test in order to return to school.

### Children of Critical Workers

If both parents / carers in your household classify as 'critical workers', please complete [this critical workers form](#) by **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December** so that we can map out provision for your child during the week.

### Free School Meals

We know it is important that your child continues to receive a free school meal during the week of 5<sup>th</sup> January if they are eligible. If your child is not attending school from 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> January but they are eligible for Free School Meals, please complete this [Free School Meals form](#). We will prepare a food parcel, which you or your child can collect from the front office at the specified times.

### **Access to IT**

As all learning will be online, your child will need to access Microsoft Teams. We are in a very fortunate position that we can loan some laptops. Those who wish to borrow a device will need to:

- Sign a laptop loan agreement.
- Laptops will have to be collected by you and your child on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January from the front office at the following times: Year 7 parents at 11.30pm, Year 8 parents at 12.00pm and Year 9 parents at 12.30pm. This is to ensure all agreements are signed and a visual check on laptops can be undertaken together.
- No laptop will be issued without an adult present.

Please complete this [device loan request form](#) if you feel your child does not have a suitable device to use between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> January and we will do our best to meet your request.

### **Staying safe and well during the holidays**

We appreciate that these continue to be uncertain times for many of us however I kindly request that you consider those members of your family that are higher risk, particularly if elderly, or with chronic illnesses before meeting them from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 to Sunday 27 December 2020.

If you are to meet, please consider keeping the windows open and maintain social distancing and avoid contact. Please kindly avoid meeting any more than three other households as per government guidelines.

If anyone in your household has any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (a fever, a new, persistent cough or a loss of your sense of taste or smell), please contact the school immediately, book a test and then follow the guidance on what to do next based on the result of that test.

As per my previous communication could you kindly contact us via email [Enquiries.NSWL@nishkamschools.org](mailto:Enquiries.NSWL@nishkamschools.org) to advise of any positive cases up to **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. The email address will be checked on a daily basis at 11.00am.

When contacting the school about positive test results please provide the following information:

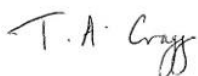
- The date symptoms started (or if there were no symptoms)
- The date the test was taken (not the date you received the result)
- The date your child's self-isolation ends

The school will then follow the guidance from Public Health England and contact families where appropriate.

I will continue to update you with the school's arrangements as we receive further clarification from the government over the coming days.

Myself and all colleagues from Nishkam School Trust would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you a safe and restful festive period.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr T Cragg  
Principal