



# Ark Elvin Academy

18 December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

At the end of this Autumn term we have much to celebrate at Elvin. Firstly, all our hard work setting the school up to be a safe place for our children to learn in has really paid off. We have, unlike many other schools, been able to keep all year groups in school throughout the Autumn term. Whilst we have had a small number of positive cases our strict social distancing rules and hygiene standards have meant that relatively few pupils have needed to self-isolate through the term. And this has meant that in our classrooms our pupils have been working hard to catch up and make strong progress across all our subjects.

I am sure that many of you will have already heard the news that yesterday the Government announced there will be a staggered return to school for secondary students at the start of term in January, you can read the full information here. This decision was made by government late in the day yesterday and came with the news that schools will be offering mass, rapid testing for staff and pupils from January. This has meant that we have a great deal to prepare for the new year in very little time and have had to update our arrangements for the start of the new year.

## **Start of term arrangements**

**Monday 4th January and Tuesday 5th January** will remain as INSET days and school will be closed to all pupils.

**Wednesday 6th January** is our parent review day for pupils in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Because of the current Tier 3 restrictions these meetings will be virtual. They will work best if they can be a video meeting on Microsoft teams. We have sent you details about how to access these meetings. Your child's form tutor will call you on MS Teams at your meeting time. If you are unable to download the Microsoft app, please do not worry we will call you on your main contact number. Year 11 parents evening took place last week. If you missed this meeting it is really important that we speak to you in the first week back after the Christmas break. Please contact your child's form tutor or Ms Johnson the Year 11 head of year to arrange a time.

**Year 11 pupils** will return to school from Wednesday 6th January.

**Year 12 pupils** and children in all year groups classed as vulnerable and children of key workers will return to school from Thursday 7th January.

**All other year groups** will start the term learning remotely at home. We will be back in contact with you on Monday 4th January when we will set work for pupils in Years 7-10 to

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complete from home. All pupils in Year 7-10 will then return to school for face-to-face teaching from Monday 11th January.

	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan
<b>Year 12</b>	INSET DAY for staff – no pupils in school		Parent Review Day – virtual meetings with form tutor	In School		All pupils in School
<b>Year 11</b>			In school			
<b>Year 10</b>				At home - remote learning		
<b>Year 9</b>			Parent Review Day – virtual meetings with form tutor	At home - remote learning		
<b>Year 8</b>				At home - remote learning		
<b>Year 7</b>				At home - remote learning		

## Vulnerable or critical worker children

If your child is classified as vulnerable or you are a key worker, your child is expected to attend school from Thursday 7th January.

## Testing

This staggered start will support the Government’s plan to roll out mass testing for the coronavirus for staff and pupils in secondary schools across England to stop the virus spreading. Pupils attending in the first week of term will be offered the tests first. Testing is optional but is strongly encouraged. By testing in school we will be able to identify positive cases in our community and prevent the virus from spreading. We will also reduce the numbers of staff and pupils who have to self-isolate. If your child does have contact with a positive case instead of self-isolating they will be offered a test daily. As long as they test negative, they will be able to attend school.

This roll-out of testing will need careful planning to ensure it is a success. I will contact you again on or before Monday 4th January to explain how testing will operate at our school. We

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still need more information from the Department for Education to help us with this planning. Your child will only be tested if you give consent.

Although infections in school have been very low as you will be aware the number of positive covid across London are increasing so it is very important that all families stick to the new Tier 3 regulations and follow the rules over the Christmas holidays. If your child tests positive for coronavirus at any time after the end of term up until 23rd December you must call the school on 020 8902 6362 or email us at [info@arkelvinacademy.org](mailto:info@arkelvinacademy.org) and let us know so that we can contact any of the children your child has had close contact with.

I hope you and your family have a restful and enjoyable festive break. We will write to you with more information on or before 4th January.

So for now from all the staff at Elvin we wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and wish you all a happy new year.

Stay Safe,

Ms Curtis  
Principal

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