

Dear Parents/Carers

8th January 2021

We obviously start the new term with a degree of uncertainty and caution. Having now had some time to digest the numerous changes, we feel we have a way forward.

CSS is currently open to ALL pupils. We do, however, understand and accept that some families, for a number of reasons, are choosing not to send their child in. Wherever we feel it is appropriate, these absences will be authorised.

As our instruction from the Department for Education **is to remain open to all pupils**, teachers will be present on site, subject to availability, to deliver lessons. All materials and instructions for those lesson will be made available on our TEAMS learning platform, for those children at home. Some staff, depending on availability, may be on hand to support with this. Instructions are being sent, together with this letter, to guide you in this.

If you have difficulties in accessing an electronic device for remote learning, please let your child's tutor know. **You may also be able to benefit from a free data, or an increase to your mobile data**, so please contact your child's centre as we will need to collect some information from you and submit a request to the DfE. This data offer is available for monthly data packages and some 'pay as you' go packages.

If your child is coming on site, please note that all classrooms will be ventilated – so please dress warmly. Other COVID safety procedures continue to be in place, and our updated Risk Assessment can be found on the CSS website www.css-essex.co.uk

Under guidance from the Department of Education, face coverings are only advised in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained. We are expecting numbers on site to be lower than usual, so we do feel we can support social distancing at all times. Of course, your child is able to wear a face covering if they wish to do so.

We are still in the process of setting up a testing site, and you will be contacted once we have that ready to go. Full information on process and procedures will be shared with you. No child will be tested without prior consent from a parent/carer. Unfortunately, these arrangements are subject to change, and will be reviewed on a weekly basis. We will aim to give you as much notice as possible.

Please keep us updated on your own circumstances, especially in relation to COVID, and keep us informed of any need to self-isolate.

We wish you all well, and we thank you for your continued support and patience.

Jo Barak
Head of Service

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