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**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing a joint letter to you at the end of what has been an unusual term to wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and to thank you for your support and cooperation this term.

We do hope you have an enjoyable and safe holiday period. We hope that despite the circumstances this year that you, nonetheless, have a good and restful break. We have really appreciated your role as parents and carers this year more than ever. We have cause to be very thankful, that over-all, infection rates in our town have stayed comparatively low for most of the term. This has meant that compared to many schools in other regions we have been able to maintain good levels of student attendance, in school, most weeks. Unfortunately, there have been unavoidable periods of Distance Learning for some groups. We have been humbled by students' and parents' understanding and good grace when this has happened. We would like to thank you all.

Start of next term:

You will have seen on the news last night that there are changes to the start of term next year, from Gavin Williamson, our Education Minister. The details of this came to schools late yesterday afternoon

Please forgive us therefore for these last minute and unexpected changes to our plans. These will be our arrangements:

1. **Pupils in Years 11** should attend school, as they had expected to do, from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020, with school transport running as usual. For Year 11 this will mean they simply attend lessons as normal.
2. **Pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10** will return to the classroom on 11<sup>th</sup> January. They will have a full timetable of Distance Learning from 8.50am on the 4<sup>th</sup> January. Their day will follow the school timetable and there will be live elements for most lessons through Microsoft Teams. Pupils and parents will find everything they need on Go4Schools with lots of resources and links.
3. A small minority of pupils from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will qualify to attend a supported school group. This small group will be comprised of pupils with vulnerabilities and those of 'critical workers.' A group of this sort ran for a small number of students through the summer term during the extended lockdown period.
  - If you believe that you are a critical worker and are unable to arrange for your child to remain at home, please complete [this form](#) by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December if you need to apply for a place. We will then confirm whether your application has met the government criteria and the arrangements for your child.
  - School will make direct contact with parents/carers of the most vulnerable.

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### Rapid testing:

During this first week of term our school will be responding to a new challenge set for us by the government. We are being asked to work to establish a Rapid Testing Centre / Service in our school for pupils/staff. As always, we will endeavour to rise to the challenge and do our best with this new duty. It is however entirely new territory for us and as yet we are unsure about how it will work. We will of course keep you informed and write to you at the start of term about how we will operate it. We understand it will not be compulsory for any of our school community and it will only be accessed by members of our school community. More details later.

We believe that it is anticipated that the Rapid Testing Service will be partially run by volunteers. We are interested to hear from any parents or contacts who could potentially support this new work. If you would like to express an interest in this at this early stage, as we design a way forward, please contact the school leaving your phone number at [Admin@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:Admin@cssschool.co.uk) and Mr Parr, or one of his team will get back to you. We are not sure about how this will all work at present, but we feel an early indication of capacity from our community could be useful.

### Keeping us informed:

We ask you to continue to let us know about infections and Covid19 matters through the holidays please. There are two things we specifically need to know. Please contact us on [covid.css@taw.org.uk](mailto:covid.css@taw.org.uk) in either of these two circumstances:

1. Please let us know if your child has a positive Covid19 result after a test on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, or 20<sup>th</sup> December. This is because we will need to work with you to Track and Trace contacts from the last couple of days of school term.
2. Please let us know if your child is in quarantine / ill where this will run into the week starting 4<sup>th</sup> January. This is a requirement for our attendance register.

We are also very pleased to hear from you about any Covid issues as they affect your family, as it allows us to form an understanding of the local picture and to support families where appropriate. Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday period. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kind regards



Sarah Godden  
CEO  
Trusted Schools' Partnership



John Parr  
Headteacher  
Church Stretton School