

Dear Parent / Carer,

Thank – you so much for your continued help in supporting us to keep our students safe at school. We are very proud of our students and the way in which they are endeavouring to follow all of the rules by staying in their bubbles and by wearing their masks appropriately, washing and sanitising their hands and conforming to the basic hygiene rules.

ATTENDANCE

We are also pleased to let you know that our attendance remains excellent and yet again, Sheringham High School is bucking the national trend. Our attendance percentage is currently at 95%. Last week we celebrated our attendance in assemblies by holding an attendance draw for those students on 100% attendance last half – term. Almost half of main school students had a 100% attendance, so a huge thank – you for all of your support to encourage your child to attend regularly.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE SECOND LOCKDOWN

As you know, the government announced that we would go into a second lockdown for the next month. Last week it released guidance to schools on how we should manage attendance for those families where someone within the family is clinically extremely vulnerable and I attach that guidance for you.

Guidance for extremely vulnerable 04/11/2020

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

Children

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.

We completely understand that this is an extremely anxious time for many of you and as always we want to work with you to support you and your child to continue their education. I would encourage you to discuss any anxieties you have around your child's attendance at school with Mrs Ransome in the first instance and she will advise you accordingly. However, please be aware that the Local Authority has advised us that we must adhere to our attendance procedures and follow up absences in the usual way.

SETTING WORK FOR ABSENT STUDENTS

If your child is absent from school for one or two days because he / she has a minor illness, please inform us in the usual way. He / she should check the Show My Homework learning platform and do his/ her best to keep on top of his / her work.

If your child stays away from school because he / she is clinically extremely vulnerable or tests positive for COVID, teachers are obliged to set work for him and her once they are aware of these circumstances and, again, it is important that you let us know this is the case. Teachers will do their best to set appropriate work, which may not necessarily be the same as that being set in class. However, it will be similar and teachers will give feedback to the student.

If you choose to keep your child away from school for other reasons, such as he / she is at home because a member of the family is clinically extremely vulnerable, teachers are not obliged to set work. You are, of course, welcome to email staff to ask for work and I am sure they will do their best to help. In these circumstances, your child should check Show My Homework and access the work from there. He / she can also look on websites used by the school such as Kerboodle, GCSE pod, BBC Bitesize and Maths Watch, which are all useful in supporting our students with their learning.

As always, we want to work with you and support you with your child's education, and I hope you will keep in touch with us if you have any worries about attendance. It is even more important that we all work together at this very difficult time. Look after yourselves and your families and please contact us if you need any help and support.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Melhuish (Deputy Headteacher)