

Silverwood School

Rowde Campus



Head of School, Rowde Campus – Mr M Loveridge

4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to my letter on 31 December 2020, and following a meeting with Silverwood School leaders yesterday, I write to update you on plans for the start of this new term.

Government guidance is clear that special schools and specialist colleges should remain open to allow **all pupils and students** to attend from the start of term. For clarity, it is our absolute intention that all Silverwood campuses remain open, which of course follows the current Government guidance.

As before, a great deal of planning and risk assessment has gone into ensuring that our school continues to be as safe as possible for pupils and staff, in line with latest Government and Public Health England guidance. We will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our pupils, working with you and keeping you informed every step of the way.

Further guidance for special schools was issued late on 31 December 2020; this permits special schools and colleges some flexibility around the attendance of pupils in the week beginning the 4th January, to appropriately plan for the testing programme.

We understand we have a significant duty of care to our pupils, our staff and the wider community we serve. As a result, we feel it is appropriate to have an additional training day on Tuesday 5th of January to make the necessary plans and preparations for staff training and pupil testing. **Pupils will return from 6th January.**

We understand that this is short notice and hope that you understand that these changes are being made in the best interests of all members of our school community and their families – and thank you once again in advance for your support in these challenging times.

Recent government guidance has indicated that schools have the option of agreeing with parents that individual pupils can stay at home to support special schools, so that they can organise the testing programme during the first week of term. If you would like to take the opportunity for your child to be at home this week to support these plans, then you will need to request a leave of absence for your child; this will be agreed on a case-by-case basis with the Campus Headteacher. If you require a leave of absence form, then please request it from the office at the appropriate campus.

Rowde, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2QQ

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I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear but if you have any questions please do email these to teresaollerhead@rowdeford.wilts.sch.uk .

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Silverwood School

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