



**Our Ref:** LTM/kmd/Janupdate

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: The Start of a New Term and Government Updates**

Following yesterday's government announcements, I find myself in the very strange situation of wanting to welcome everyone back at the start of a new term, hoping that everyone had a restful Christmas and New Year, looking forward to the year ahead, but with no students in school. The sentiment remains, although clearly the situation we now find ourselves in results in everything feeling very different for us all.

Prior to Christmas, I spoke about having optimism that all things COVID related would become more manageable and that we would resume as much normality as possible in the weeks ahead; my hope for this remains, albeit with some significant challenges ahead.

You will be aware that following yesterday's governments announcements, school will be closed for face to face work until February half term, with the exception of vulnerable students and those of critical workers (information on the criteria for these students can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>)

If you feel that your child is entitled to a place and you wish to request a place in school, you should complete the request form at the following link. Mr White is co-ordinating this provision and will confirm a placement for your child; these children will be supported in accessing the online work set by teachers via online lessons in school:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2s8TOK9SpUy44yMVeXcKuuUDtb9yViVDk0J2RwpOS1UOFq0MVNIVVpPSzA1UVU0OE1KSTBSMDFLMC4u>

All other students will be accessing work via Distance Learning. Information regarding this has already been sent out with evidence from yesterday's reports showing successful engagement for almost all students across the school. Should you have any technical based issues regarding access to Satchel One or Microsoft Teams, you should make contact via [ows.icctechns@oldburywells.com](mailto:ows.icctechns@oldburywells.com) where we will look to support you with any ongoing concerns.

No matter what year group your child is in, I cannot emphasise the importance of them being organised to follow their normal school timetable and work towards completion of any work set. Staff are working hard to ensure that all work is well planned and resourced following normal schemes of work. Staff will be closely monitoring the engagement and progress of all students and responding to any questions throughout. For students, they will be able to contact their teachers via Satchel One or via Microsoft TEAMS, all teachers are required to be available to answer any questions during formal lesson times and will have set up a live element to the lesson to allow this to happen. If parents have any key questions, they should contact staff via e-mail (at the end of this letter is an overview of key staff contacts). Please be aware that you may not get an immediate response as staff in school are still engaged with delivering all their lessons, as would be the case during the normal school day.

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*Schools' Partnership*

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I know that for students due to complete external examinations this year there will be some concern about how things may work. We have been informed that the external examinations scheduled for the start of this term will continue as previously communicated. In relation to examinations in the summer, we are told *"In these circumstances, we do not think it is possible for exams to go ahead fairly this summer. The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly"*. We await further information on what this will result in. What is clear is that the importance for all students to work hard in their online lessons; if part of any final grading is impacted on by the school directly, all work will be carefully considered; for our Year 11 & Year 13 students in particular this is something they need to be very aware of.

Year 13 students will be receiving further information about their mock examinations and arrangements shortly, with the aim again for them to be able to demonstrate the progress they have made as a result of their commitment to date.

I am aware that parents will have lots of questions which we hope to be able to respond to in the days ahead. Our intention is to ensure that you receive a weekly newsletter update with any key developments, including feedback which comes from any parental questions. In addition, we will be making regular contact with students and aim alongside live lessons, to co-ordinate some assemblies and wider school activities which will support students across all year groups.

Below are a few key points for all families to consider:

- Reporting Illness. If your child is poorly and unable to complete work from home, please contact Mrs Sawyer ([karen.sawyer@oldburywells.com](mailto:karen.sawyer@oldburywells.com)) as you would if your child was absent from school. This includes if you have a confirmed case of COVID in your household which will have resulted in further restrictions.
- Transport for vulnerable and critical worker students. Transport will be provided for all students required to attend school, these students will be collected and transported home under normal arrangements.
- Free School Meals. We are awaiting further guidance from the Government which is expected this week. We will act on any guidance given and if required, return to the voucher scheme, which parents were communicated on prior to the Christmas period. Students attending school will need to bring a packed lunch and snacks as there will be no canteen provision in school.

Can I thank all families for the positive feedback received to date; due to the timing of announcements everyone has done remarkably well to adjust and get organised to work remotely from home; we are very proud of the commitment of everyone involved. Please contact the school should you have any concerns; we are here to help and give any additional support where needed. We will remain in regular contact and look to support all students fully in the weeks ahead.

Yours faithfully

**Mr Lee Tristham**  
Headteacher

## Communications for Distance Learning

Please note that Satchel One is a communication tool for students only and that if parents wish to contact staff they should use the email addresses outlined below:

The school website includes how to use ICT at home and has useful learning links in a newly created Learning Zone. Use this section to help guide distance learning:

<http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/distance-learning>

We know communication is key for us all right now. Here are some key contacts:

<b>Serious Welfare or Child Protection Matters</b> Ms Warner and Mr White	<a href="mailto:katharine.warner@oldburywells.com">katharine.warner@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:jamie.white@oldburywells.com">jamie.white@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Show My Homework / email / ICT issues</b> Mr Williams, Mr Wycherley and Mr Thomas	<a href="mailto:ows.icctechns@oldburywells.com">ows.icctechns@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:andrew.thomas@taw.org.uk">andrew.thomas@taw.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:tom.williams3@oldburywells.com">tom.williams3@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:scott.wycherley@oldburywells.com">scott.wycherley@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Notification of any Coronavirus diagnoses</b> Mrs Sawyer	<a href="mailto:attendance@oldburywells.com">attendance@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:karen.sawyer@oldburywells.com">karen.sawyer@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Updates on the most serious family or medical issues</b> Mr Tristham, Mrs Dwane	<a href="mailto:lee.tristham@oldburywells.com">lee.tristham@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:kate.dwane@oldburywells.com">kate.dwane@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Year 7 Pastoral Matters</b> Mr Smith and Mrs Bridgwater	<a href="mailto:chris.smith2@oldburywells.com">chris.smith2@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:lisa.bridgwater@oldburywells.com">lisa.bridgwater@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Year 8 Pastoral Matters</b> Mr Cook and Mrs Bridgwater	<a href="mailto:jake.cook@oldburywells.com">jake.cook@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:lisa.bridgwater@oldburywells.com">lisa.bridgwater@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Year 9 Pastoral Matters</b> Miss Morgan and Mrs Goodison	<a href="mailto:catherine.morgan@oldburywells.com">catherine.morgan@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:lucy.goodison@oldburywells.com">lucy.goodison@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Year 10 Pastoral Matters</b> Mr Cook and Ms Barlow	<a href="mailto:kurt.cook@oldburywells.com">kurt.cook@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:sarah.barlow@oldburywells.com">sarah.barlow@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Year 11 Pastoral Matters</b> Mr Cowburn and Ms Barlow	<a href="mailto:terry.cowburn@oldburywells.com">terry.cowburn@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:sarah.barlow@oldburywells.com">sarah.barlow@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Sixth Form Pastoral Matters</b> Mrs Bishell, Mr Williams and Mrs Fyfe	<a href="mailto:tom.williams3@oldburywells.com">tom.williams3@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:april.bishell@oldburywells.com">april.bishell@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:tracy.fyfe@oldburywells.com">tracy.fyfe@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>SEND Support</b> Mrs Anthony, Mrs Homer and Mrs Woodward	<a href="mailto:shirley.anthony@oldburywells.com">shirley.anthony@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:mandy.homer@oldburywells.com">mandy.homer@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:jayne.woodward@oldburywells.com">jayne.woodward@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Examination Enquiries</b> Mr Brown and Mrs Wellings	<a href="mailto:bruce.brown@oldburywells.com">bruce.brown@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:sarah.wellings@oldburywells.com">sarah.wellings@oldburywells.com</a>

// continued overleaf (subject contacts)

<b>English Cluster</b> Ms Lawson and Mrs Buckley	<a href="mailto:sally.lawson@oldburywells.com">sally.lawson@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:helen.buckley@oldburywells.com">helen.buckley@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Mathematics Cluster</b> Mrs Barlow and Mr Kiapene	<a href="mailto:katy.barlow@oldburywells.com">katy.barlow@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:john.kiapene@oldburywells.com">john.kiapene@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Science Cluster</b> Mrs Morgan, Mrs Boyle and Mr Johnson (Physics)	<a href="mailto:julie.morgan@oldburywells.com">julie.morgan@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:emma.boyle@oldburywells.com">emma.boyle@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:mal.johnson@oldburywells.com">mal.johnson@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Applied Studies Cluster (Computing &amp; Business Studies)</b> Mrs Chapman and Mrs Dunning	<a href="mailto:rachel.chapman2@oldburywells.com">rachel.chapman2@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:emma.dunning2@oldburywells.com">emma.dunning2@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Music Department</b> Ms Dangerfield and Mrs Chapman	<a href="mailto:jo.dangerfield@oldburywells.com">jo.dangerfield@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:rachel.chapman2@oldburywells.com">rachel.chapman2@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Drama Department</b> Ms Morgan, Mr Cook and Mrs Bell	<a href="mailto:catherine.morgan@oldburywells.com">catherine.morgan@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:kurt.cook@oldburywells.com">kurt.cook@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:liz.bell@oldburywells.com">liz.bell@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Art and Design Technology</b> Mrs Bell (Design Tech) and Mrs Wycherley (Art)	<a href="mailto:liz.bell@oldburywells.com">liz.bell@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:emma.wycherley@oldburywells.com">emma.wycherley@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>MFL Department</b> Ms Dijoux, Mr Farish, Mr Cowley and Mrs Whytton-Owen	<a href="mailto:Solene.dijoux@oldburywells.com">Solene.dijoux@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:stuart.farish@oldburywells.com">stuart.farish@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:daniel.cowley@oldburywells.com">daniel.cowley@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:debbie.whytonowen@oldburywells.com">debbie.whytonowen@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>PE Department</b> Mr Farish and Ms Joiner	<a href="mailto:stuart.farish@oldburywells.com">stuart.farish@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:claire.joiner@oldburywells.com">claire.joiner@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>History Department</b> Mr Grainger and Mrs Lawson	<a href="mailto:ben.grainger@oldburywells.com">ben.grainger@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:becky.lawson@oldburywells.com">becky.lawson@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Geography Department</b> Mr Williams and Mrs Farrington	<a href="mailto:tom.williams3@oldburywells.com">tom.williams3@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:sam.farrington@oldburywells.com">sam.farrington@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>RE Department</b> Dr Perfect, Mr Hailes and Mr Grainger	<a href="mailto:james.perfect@oldburywells.com">james.perfect@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:craig.hailes@oldburywells.com">craig.hailes@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:ben.grainger@oldburywells.com">ben.grainger@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Psychology Department</b> Miss Warner and Mr Grainger	<a href="mailto:samantha.warner@oldburywells.com">samantha.warner@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:ben.grainger@oldburywells.com">ben.grainger@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Sociology Department</b> Dr Perfect, Mr Hailes and Mr Grainger	<a href="mailto:james.perfect@oldburywells.com">james.perfect@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:craig.hailes@oldburywells.com">craig.hailes@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:ben.grainger@oldburywells.com">ben.grainger@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Citizenship Department</b> Dr Perfect, Mr Hailes and Mr Grainger	<a href="mailto:james.perfect@oldburywells.com">james.perfect@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:craig.hailes@oldburywells.com">craig.hailes@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:ben.grainger@oldburywells.com">ben.grainger@oldburywells.com</a>
<b>Health &amp; Social Care</b> Miss Siviter and Mrs Chapman	<a href="mailto:danielle.siviter@oldburywells.com">danielle.siviter@oldburywells.com</a> <a href="mailto:rachel.chapman2@oldburywells.com">rachel.chapman2@oldburywells.com</a>

Health communication: Please let us know if your family/ child has had Coronavirus by emailing: [attendance@oldburywells.com](mailto:attendance@oldburywells.com)

**Other useful numbers and contacts:**

Shropshire closures website: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-closures/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-closures/)

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

Child Protection FPOC (Shropshire): 0345 678 9021