



Our ref: cwa/stah71

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have been able to enjoy some level of festive celebrations with your loved ones in what has been the most challenging of years. On behalf of staff and governors, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year. My apologies for having to write to you again at the very outset of 2021, however, on Wednesday the government issued updated guidance of how they expect schools to open in January. This guidance coincided with the region being placed into Tier Four restrictions. Unfortunately, this guidance has resulted in our plans for the start of next term changing.

The following will now take place

1. From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January onsite provision will now be for key worker and vulnerable pupils only. As per my previous letter, if you are a key worker and require a place for your child then please email us at [keyworker@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk](mailto:keyworker@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk) by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 1pm. The email should include the following information:
  - Your child's name.
  - Occupation of mother and father/carer.
  - Criteria your occupation is under, as per the link sent out previously.

We will contact the parents of those pupils that we consider to be more vulnerable on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and those pupils will be encouraged to attend school from Tuesday morning. The revised government guidance outlines that key worker and vulnerable pupils must remain in their year group bubbles. Those pupils onsite from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January will follow their normal timetable, completing the lessons set for them on Microsoft Teams. They will be based in their usual zones, holding areas and recreational spaces.

2. Year 11 pupils will now remain offsite until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and, therefore, from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and for the remainder of this week they will access their learning remotely. The government has made it clear that Year 11 pupils will sit their examinations as planned. It is essential, therefore, that all Year 11 pupils access their learning remotely. Please be assured that we will do our absolute utmost to ensure that pupils are not disadvantaged by the situation that we find ourselves in. From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, teachers will return to work after the Christmas break, and are contactable via their school email address if your child needs additional help and support.
3. Pupils in Years 7-10 will now return to site on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January we will offer a remote provision delivered via Microsoft Teams. If you have any concerns regarding your child's remote learning, then please contact us via our Blended Learning email address [blendedlearning@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk](mailto:blendedlearning@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk).

4. Lastly, the final element of pupils returning to school is around the testing of pupils and staff. During the first week back, we will explore the logistics of this and how it might operate in our school, however, this will require a great deal of planning and organisation. It is not something that falls within our area of expertise as educators. As soon as I have more details regarding this then I will be in touch.

I will be sharing further updates with you over the coming days as these become available. Please ensure that you follow the Tier Four guidance. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing patience and support of our school community. I would encourage you to follow us on social media to keep abreast of any development.



Yours faithfully

**Ms CM Wallace**  
**Headteacher**

