



Start of term, January 2021

5th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families have been able to enjoy the festive season despite the restrictions. You will no doubt be aware that the Scottish Government have put in further restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus as of yesterday. Please see below immediate information about the arrangements for the beginning of this term. You will appreciate that we do not yet have full information on some points, so there will be further information to follow; please can I urge you to follow the school's Facebook page and look out for text messages and emails with updates.

Please be assured that Stromness Academy continues to be here to support your child even though we may not see them face-to-face for a while; please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Jane Partridge

Head Teacher

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 <https://www.facebook.com/stromnessacademy/> website: www.stromnessacademy.org.uk

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When is school open?

- School is not open to pupils on Weds 6th January.
- On Thurs 7th and Fri 8th January, school is open only to Stromness Academy pupils who are children of key workers and need childcare, and to pupils who are considered vulnerable. All other pupils remain on holiday.
- From Monday 11th January onwards, all pupils will be provided with remote learning activities. The majority of pupils will complete these at home; those registered for childcare and vulnerable pupils will continue to be able to attend school. This is currently due to continue until 1st February, although Orkney Islands Council are in discussion with Scottish Government on whether we might have an earlier return to face-to-face learning if covid infection rates remain low in the islands.
- Childcare means that we will provide supervision, and access to resources such as computers, games and PE facilities. Lessons will not be provided, but when remote learning starts, childcare staff will support your child to access and complete their tasks. We will also support vulnerable pupils to access support services according to their individual needs. School lunches will also be provided and free school meals will operate as normal.

How do I register for childcare?

- To find out whether you are eligible as a key worker, and to register your child, please see [here](#).
- Once you are registered for childcare, you will need to contact Stromness Academy direct to confirm the days/hours for which you require childcare. Please contact the school office on 850660 or admin.sa@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

How do I know if my child should be attending school as a “vulnerable” child?

- If your child is considered vulnerable and in need of the support, structure or resources of school, you do not need to register them – school staff will contact you on Weds 6th January to discuss your child’s needs.

Information continues below

How will remote learning work?

- Similarly to during lockdown, we will provide resources to pupils online, using Microsoft Teams. Further information on what will be provided when will be sent out by the end of this week.
- We have received a government allocation of Chromebooks (small laptops for online working) for pupils who do not have a device at home for remote working. These have been allocated to pupils where we have information that they are needed and their parents will be contacted on Weds 6th January to arrange collection of a device. If you are not contacted and feel your child should be allocated a device, or have other concerns about access to online learning, please contact the school office on 850660 or admin.sa@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

What happens about SQA courses?

- We are awaiting further information from the Scottish Government on how the move to remote learning will affect the gathering of evidence of pupils' attainment for SQA courses.
- A decision about the timing of the Higher/Advanced Higher assessments which were planned to take place from 18th January will be made once we have more clarity on how long remote learning will continue for.