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| **Highworth Combined School** |
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| Dear allI had hoped not to bother you with more communication before the start of the new term, but after much media speculation and the announcement yesterday from Gavin Williamson, I thought that it would be helpful to clarify arrangements for the return to school for Highworth pupils.As previously advised, we have Inset days on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January with pupils returning to school on Wednesday 6th January. All additional ‘Covid secure’ arrangements (staggered start and end times; year group bubbles; entry and exit to school site; modified uniform) remain in place with no changes.Sadly, since the end term, Covid case numbers in our local area have continued to rise at an alarming rate, with Buckinghamshire Council yesterday declaring a major incident. This has 2 implications for us at Highworth.Firstly, we will be preparing contingency plans for implementation should we be told to move to remote learning for most pupils (this is the case in some other areas of the country where there are rising infection rates). This is not an option that I relish, but I think it would benefit all to be ready if change is required by Government.Secondly, I must remind you how important it is to do everything possible to protect your children, your family, school staff and the whole community by doing the following:         Practising social distancing when dropping off and collecting your children         If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms of Covid 19 (a new persistent cough, a temperature or a loss of taste or smell) your child MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL          You must ensure that the person with symptoms takes a test for Covid 19 as soon as possible          You must not send your child back to school until a negative test result has been received, or 10 days of self-isolation has been completed May I wish you all a Happy New Year and say that I look forward to seeing you again on Wednesday 6th January.Very best wishesClare Pankhania   |

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