



Headteacher: Mr D. Williams
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Tuesday 14th December 2021

Dear parent / carer,

As the end of term approaches I wanted to write to thank you for your ongoing support throughout, what has been, an incredibly challenging term. Your children have been excellent again and your cooperation and support in ensuring that they are testing twice per week and bringing their masks has been invaluable. It is disappointing that some of our usual Christmas events haven't been able to take place however the safety of the school community has been our priority so we have continued to follow Public Health advice and remain proactive in our approach throughout. Equally it has been important to maintain the school routine and structure with minimal disruption; I feel we have achieved this through the hard work and dedication of the fantastic staff we have here. I am extremely grateful to work with such a committed team!

As you know, we have once again been asked to set up a mass testing facility so that we can carry out on-site LFD tests with all pupils as they return in January. We rely heavily on volunteer staff to run these tests and each one has had to undergo rigorous training; I am extremely grateful to those who have stepped in to help with this – each time we run them, we hope it is the last time however this has clearly not been the case!

We will not require new consent for this session of tests; the consents provided in September are still valid however if you wish to alter or add consent (e.g. new pupils who joined the school after the last round of tests) then please just contact the school office as soon as possible.

As we are having to carry out over 500 tests, **we will however need to alter the planned return of pupils slightly** as we have calculated that it will take us 1 and a half days to get through them all. We are therefore once again asking pupils to return from their Christmas break at different times. As before, your support in dropping them off at the following times would be much appreciated however I fully understand if you have no choice other than to use school transport. If that is the case, then do send them in and we will do our best not to keep them waiting around too long. Here are the test times for each year group:

Thursday 6 th January		Friday 7 th January	
8:50am	Year 9	8:50am	Year 7
11:00am	Year 10	11:00am	Year 8
1.15pm	Year 11		

It is also important that the twice weekly home-testing carries on throughout the Christmas break and into next term, including on the evening before the pupils return to school. Measures such as face masks in communal areas, hand-washing / sanitising and social-distancing will of course also be required into next term. I would also like to remind families **that pupils should be wearing masks on school and public**



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transport; please ensure that pupils have masks and are wearing them before getting on the school bus in the morning and we will continue to do so at the end of the school day.

Despite the challenges, we are committed to working hard so that your children's education proceeds, for the most part, without disruption. We have had no indication of any school closures on the horizon and I very much hope that will remain the case and look forward to seeing the children back and fully refreshed in January.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and happy Christmas and an even better New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams