



14th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The last week of term is here at last! It feels like the longest term of my career, but I'd like to thank you all for the support you have given to the school since September. Students have had a huge number of adaptations to make, and they've done so with their usual hard work and brilliant sense of fun. We're very proud of them!

I do have a few notices that I need to share with you.

### **Covid-19 Symptoms / End of Term**

We are now in a timeframe where should a 10-day isolation be necessary this will impact on Christmas. To avoid any unnecessary impact on families who may have plans to travel or have family visiting it is particularly important that we are hyper vigilant to potential symptoms of COVID-19. We are all familiar with the 3 main coronavirus symptoms:

- A high temperature
- A new and continuous cough
- A loss of smell or taste

If your child is exhibiting any of these, they must not attend school and you should arrange a test for them.

### **Arrangements for Reporting Positive COVID-19 Test Results over the Holidays**

Schools have a responsibility to support Public Health with contact tracing for positive cases where a pupil has spent any time in school in the preceding 48 hours to the onset of symptoms. This means that once we have broken up on the 18th December and a child subsequently displays symptoms on the Saturday or Sunday following that, it is important that you inform the school. We then have a duty to contact any identified close contacts according to our seating plans and instruct them to self-isolate for 10 days.

I will be on call during the first week to instigate any procedures that need to be put in place. Please use the link to the form below if you receive a positive notification and your child displayed symptoms on Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th December. If your child tests positive, but symptoms did not begin until Monday 21st December, then you do not need to notify school but the household must isolate for 10 days from the first sign of symptoms.



## Reporting Positive Cases

If you receive notification of a positive COVID-19 test for your child outside of normal school office hours, then please report this using our online form available at <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eAM1yH4tXE-51eekec82MW-6XAwrAZFBjbHvTXMordxUNIUYtOY0UkVFR0daSjJFOTY5UzE5TkpFNS4u> or email me directly at [lmcquone@blackminster.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:lmcquone@blackminster.worcs.sch.uk).

## Return to School in January

With the relaxed rules for all Tiers over the Christmas period, from 22nd to 27th December, to enable families to enjoy a Christmas which is as close to normal as possible, there is inevitably going to be a spike in cases in January. To avoid the potential significant impact on other children's learning, it is very important that no pupils return to school if they are displaying any COVID related symptoms previously listed. For those children who are well, we return to school on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>, when it will be Week B on the timetable.

## Last week of Term

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – gingerbread competition (see Facebook for details)

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Santa Fun Run (please come in PE kit and bring costumes/accessories.) All money raised goes to Movember, the Men's Health Charity.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – non-uniform day. School finishes at 3:15.

## Key Stage 2 SATs

The latest news from the Government is that SATs will take place for Year 6 students as follows

Monday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 – English Reading

Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 – Maths – Arithmetic and Reasoning 1

Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 – Maths – Reasoning 2

All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe Christmas. My staff and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Yours sincerely



Linda McQuone

