



15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parent consultations

Thank you for booking appointments so promptly this week. If you haven't already booked an appointment, then please do so as soon as possible using the school cloud system <https://camp.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. Please do call the school office if you need any support in booking appointments. Please follow [this link](#) for a short video to remind you how the system works for you to be able to attend the appointment. These links are also available on the school website.

INSET days and term dates

School finishes next Friday at 2.30pm for half-term (Monday 25th to Friday 29th October).

We also have an INSET day on Monday 1st November when school will be closed for pupils.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 2nd November from 08:45am.

Term finishes for Christmas on Friday 17th December at 1.30pm.

Monday 20th December and Tuesday 21st December are an INSET and occasional day and pupils are not expected in school on these days.

We come back to school for the Spring term on Wednesday 5th January (apologies as this was previously advised as 4th January).

Please refer to the school website for up to date information on term dates.

COVID-19 Update

Unfortunately, the number of positive cases in our local community has been rising over the last few weeks. This week we again have positive cases in school and need to ask for your continued support in trying to keep our school as safe as possible for everyone. We really appreciate the proactive and prompt action by parents who have arranged PCR tests when their child has developed symptoms.

We will continue to keep classrooms well-ventilated; children and staff will wash or sanitize their hands regularly and everyone will continue to use good respiratory hygiene. Our staff will also continue to take regular lateral flow tests. If anyone develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school they will be sent home and asked to book a PCR test. We will also continue to authorise any absence linked to Coronavirus (e.g. choosing to keep your child at home if a family member has tested positive or whilst you are waiting for the results of a PCR test).

As we have said previously, classes are no longer asked to close when there is a positive case. NHS Test and Trace, rather than school, are now expected to carry out the identification of close contacts. However, we know that we are well placed to support with this role and therefore we **will help where we can in identifying close contacts quickly** so you can arrange for a PCR test. We will tell you if your child (in our view) would be considered a close contact – e.g. sits next to a child who has tested positive or is in the same friendship group. We would then ask you to arrange a PCR test and wait for the result before returning to school. This action goes further than the national guidance but we want to protect our pupils, families and staff and try to avoid an outbreak.

We ask for your continued support in the following ways:

- If your child is unwell, please keep them at home
- Be vigilant for symptoms, including the new wider range of symptoms identified by the Zoe App*
- If your child shows any symptom that may be COVID arrange for them to get a PCR test

- Keep children at home if possible whilst you await the result of the PCR test
- We would like to encourage all adults and teenagers in your household to use lateral flow tests regularly (recommended twice per week)
- Please tell us if anyone in your household has tested positive for Coronavirus. This will enable us to talk to you about the next steps, including the need for a PCR test and consideration of keeping children at home for a period of time. We can also then advise the parents of any vulnerable children in the class and support our vulnerable staff.
- Continue to be careful to follow the advice on 'hands, face, space, fresh air' to protect your own health as well as those around you.

*COVID-19 symptoms- NHS official symptoms: **new or continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, high temperature**. Other symptoms identified by the Zoe Covid study: **Fatigue, headache, runny nose, fever, sore throat, sneezing, loss of appetite** and, in younger children, tummy pain (see <https://covid.joinzoe.com/post/new-top-5-covid-symptoms>)

As we have had several cases of stomach upsets in school recently we would like to remind parents, that in line with NHS guidance, children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions and thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Next week I will provide an update on some of the activities that have been taking place in school over the last few weeks, including a number of sporting events.

Best wishes

Sharon Barton
Head Teacher