



Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College

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Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

11th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

General Update – 11th December 2020

I am writing to you before we all break up for Christmas, to outline our school plans for next week as well as explaining our track and trace responsibilities for the six days starting from Saturday 19th December until noon on Thursday 24th December.

Firstly, I want to thank you all for helping us in our endeavour to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in school. It has now been 10 weeks since we have had a positive case in school, and this is due to the sterling efforts of our staff, the students following our increased risk management strategies, and you, the parents and carers, for ensuring that students have face masks and that they are not in school whilst suffering from any Covid-19 related symptoms. This has been a tough term, but we have done very well as a community school to do the best for our students. We have also had one of the highest attendance rates in the County, so thank you again for helping us to help keep you all safe.

You will have seen the government announcement suggesting that schools close next Friday for an inset day, so that teaching staff who are involved in track and trace are cleared of their reporting responsibility by close of play on December 23rd. I have decided that we will not be doing this as it puts additional pressure for child care on you all at a difficult time of year. My senior team and I are happy to be responsible for track and trace up to and including 24th December. Thus our last day of term will be Friday 18th December as previously arranged.

Before I tell you in more detail about the last week of term, I need to explain your responsibilities for reporting positive Covid-19 cases to us at school after we break up for the Christmas holidays. Any student who displays Covid-19 symptoms on Friday 18th, Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th December should have a Covid-19 test. If that test is positive, the result should be reported to us via the admin email account at the top of this letter. Any student displaying Covid-19 symptoms from Monday 21st December should still be sent for a test, but a positive result does not need to be reported to us as more than 48 hours will have passed since they could have been a potential contact for others in school. We acknowledge that you may not be able to access a test straight away, and so for this reason you can report a positive case to us up to Thursday 24th December via the admin email account. A member of the team will be checking this admin account daily between these dates from 10am – 12 noon, and will pass positive results to the senior team. They will then contact parents of affected students so that they can isolate. Thank you for your support with this.

The government have announced that those families in receipt of free school meals will receive vouchers for the Christmas period via the Food Voucher Scheme. Eligible families will be contacted by our admin team shortly via email regarding this.

We have been trying to keep things as normal as possible in school despite the current restrictions, and have managed to enable two groups of Duke of Edinburgh students to undertake practice walks in the South Downs within school time. We are aiming to restart some after school clubs from January, and we are currently looking at what we can offer

safely. There will be some restrictions about how much we can offer, but I feel it is an important aspect of our curriculum offer here and so I welcome the governments encouragement to be restarting these. It is likely that some of our after school offer will be for YR 11 students wishing to engage in revision sessions for their upcoming GCSE's. We will be in touch again once we have a viable timetable of after school clubs for your children to sign up for.

The arrangements for the last week of term are in full swing. There is a tutor group Christmas competition in place from this week for the best decorated tutor room. This will be judged next Wednesday by the senior team. Additionally, there will be a variety of Christmas themed activities available throughout next week culminating on Friday with our Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day. We will be operating a number of sittings for Christmas lunch so as to maintain social distancing. As a result, the last day of term may look slightly different to students, but all will be offered a range of fun activities to watch or engage in. There are also some fun surprises planned which we think the students will find highly enjoyable, but I am unable to tell you more at this time as I want it to be a surprise for our students. I am sure they will tell all!!

Please be reminded that we will be having an inset day on Monday 25th January for essential staff training.

Finally, it remains for me to thank you for your continued support and kind comments. My staff team are a dedicated bunch and they have had to work really hard this term to keep on top of all of the governments guidelines and restrictions.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful and healthy Christmas and I know that we are all looking forward to a more optimistic 2021. We look forward to welcoming our students back on 4th January 2021.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
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