



Samuel Cody School

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5th November 2021

General school and Covid-19 Update – Primary and Secondary– 5th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you had a good half term break. I am writing to you to update you on how things have been going in school and to set out our plans for the next half term leading up to Christmas.

Again, I would like to thank you for all of your support with the Covid-19 home and in-school saliva testing of our students. This is continuing to help us keep safe by enabling us to know the health status of those around us. If you need any advice on Covid-19 or need to speak to Mr Tyreman you can communicate with him directly at: g.tyreman@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk

The first half of our new term has gone very quickly, and all of a sudden we find ourselves in the run up to Christmas. We have had a few cases of asymptomatic Covid-19 in school and luckily the impact of these, both in terms of the health impact on individuals who have tested positive and the spread of the infection to others, has been minimal. When we have a case in school, a text is sent to those who we believe to be close contacts so that they can engage in extra testing.

Can I please remind everyone that it is your responsibility to let us know of any change in email address or contact telephone number. We are due to move to a new School Information Management System and it is essential that we have the right information stored for you.

Parents' evenings

Many thanks to all that completed the online survey regarding the timing and format of future parents' evenings. I can confirm that the majority of primary parents voted for a 3-6pm slot and that secondary parents voted for a 5-8pm slot.

The context of these was almost a unanimous vote meaning that the first meeting on Wednesday the 8th December will be a virtual one, the second one on Wednesday the 16th March will be face to face with your child's tutor and the final one on Wednesday 15th June will be face to face with all teachers who teach your child. This of course depends upon the Covid-19 situation at the time. For the upcoming virtual parents evening on the 8th December, both primary and secondary tutors will be in contact soon to make an appointment with you. Additionally you will receive an end of term report for your child, which will include for year 9 parents, guidance on GCSE or alternative pathways in English, maths and science to help facilitate the options meetings that will take place later in the year.

Activities/News (Primary)

We are slowly returning to normal operations here in school and several of our primary children have taken part in local trips out. We will continue to operate these whilst it is safe to do so. The primary school has had a lovely new large piece of play apparatus installed and I have been told that it has been well received by our pupils. Our primary pupils are regularly engaged in Forest School activities, and this has added a valuable component to our EYFS and key stage 1 and 2 offer. There are a few after school clubs running now. Please contact the primary school for more information about these. Please note that there will be no clubs running after school in the last week of term – 13th-17th December.

Christmas planning is now in full swing, and there are plans for a Christmas show for the pupils as well as a virtual pantomime showing and a Christmas lunch for which there will be no charge.

Primary coffee mornings/afternoons have been planned for the following dates and times:

Tuesday 9th November 13:30-14:30

Friday 14th January 09:00-10:00

Friday 5th May 09:00-10:00.

Please contact the primary department to let them know if you will be attending.

Activities/News (Secondary)

Our secondary students have started their new curriculum and key stage 3 have greatly enjoyed the introduction of the enrichment programme on a Wednesday afternoon. This last half term, Year 9 have been paddle boarding and kayaking down at Horseshoe Lake in Yateley and have had a wonderful time. Each year group in key stage 3 will get the opportunity to engage in this activity over the course of the year with other school-based enrichment sessions happening in school. The offer changes every half term. Several residential activities are planned for secondary students this half term. Year 8 will be travelling down to Avon Tyrell in the New Forest for a week of adventure, and the Year 11's will be embarking on their 'Futures Week' culminating in a residential experience at Runways End. The school Duke of Edinburgh Award groups will continue to undertake expedition training and you will be contacted about this nearer the time, as will parents of other year groups whose residential activities will be held later in the new year.

Next Wednesday, the 10th November, years 7, 8 and 9 will be participating in a STEM morning focussing on the environment in recognition of the COP26 climate change conference. They will undertake a range of tasks and activities in the morning, culminating in the planting and creation of a sustainable fruit tree orchard on the school field. As the weather is getting colder, on this day, students in these year groups should wear warm non-uniform clothes to school and a solid pair of shoes that can cope with potentially muddy conditions.

After school clubs have started again. Please contact your child's tutor if you need more information on what these are. Please note that there will be no clubs running after school in the last week of term – 13th-17th December.

We recently hosted a Year 9 parents coffee morning, and Covid-19 allowing, we have planned more coffee mornings over the next year for the parents of other year groups. Currently these are:

Year 8 parents - Wednesday 8th December 09:15-10:15

Year 7 parents – Wednesday 26th January 09:15-10:15

Year 11 parents – Wednesday 9th February 09:15-10:15

Year 10 parents – Wednesday 9th March 09:15-10:15

Invitations will be sent out nearer the time. Please let the school office know if you will be attending.

Secondary school Christmas activities are in the throes of being planned and will include a Christmas Quiz, a Pantomime starring our wonderful staff (To be delivered live in front of students in key stage groups!), Christmas lunch on Friday 17th December for years 8,9,10 and 11 and a buffet and Christmas disco for year 7, all at no charge.

Important dates for the whole school – Please make a note of the following

Monday 8th November – Poppies are available at reception for a small donation to support the Royal British Legion

Monday 15th November – ‘Odd Socks Day’ marks Anti-Bullying week, and to show our support of this initiative we are inviting out pupils in primary and students in secondary to come to school wearing ‘odd socks’ to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Friday 19th November – ‘Dress Down Friday’ in support of Children in Need (£1 donation requested)

Monday 22nd November – INSET day to facilitate staff training. The school will be closed to all students.

Friday 17th December – End of Term. Christmas Holidays start at 14:45.

Finally, it has been noticed that some students are being given letters to take home in their bags and that these are not reaching parents. In future, if we have given students letters to take home with them we will text you to alert you to the fact that you may need to look in their bags.

Thank you again for your support during which is still a difficult time for schools. I wish you and your families well.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
Samuel Cody School