



Samuel Cody School

Ballantyne Road, Farnborough. Hants. GU14 8SN
Telephone: 01252 514194 Fax: 01252 546430
Email: adminoffice@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk
Community: 01252 401080 or 01252 401087

Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

16th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move towards the end of a very long term, I am writing to update you on things that have been happening in school as well as setting out the plans for the last couple of days of this term.

As you know, we have had a sporadic number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school population this half term and have been working really hard to keep things as normal as possible with additional safety procedures in place. I would like to say a big thank you for all the amazing testing you have been doing at home to help keep the school safe. Your efforts, coupled with the schools robust action plan for a Covid-19 outbreak, has meant that we were able to stop the spread of the virus and return to normal within 12 days of our outbreak. Our action plan for any future Covid-19 outbreaks can be found on the schools website under the Covid-19 section. Moving forward into the New Year, masks will continue to play a big part in keeping safe and students have shown a high level of maturity in following rules and have been wearing them in communal areas. They deserve congratulations indeed.

Testing, next term, will play a huge part in stopping Covid-19 spreading throughout our school and local communities. If your child is a close contact of a person with Covid-19 they need to let the school know and also surge test on Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) for seven days. In order to help with this task the school is offering surge testing in the mornings. If you have not yet signed up for this option please contact Mr Tyreman.

It is important that if your child is surge testing at home, that you send in the results to the school. To make this easier the school is launching a Covid-19 mobile telephone hotline in the New Year which you can use to quickly text results to. You will need to include the result, as well as your child's name and tutor group. This will help us monitor the number of people testing. If you forget to test you can text us and we will try and sort a test out in school. This number is mainly for receiving texts and should only be called if you have an urgent Covid-19 issue you need help with. The Covid-19 hotline contact number will be sent to you at the end of the Christmas break in time for the return to school.

We are aware that there may be a shortage of flow testing kits from the government website and chemists. The school does have a good supply chain currently, so if you need kits, let us know and we will try and send some home the same day.

Our Saliva testing program will continue in the New Year. The NHS are changing the test tubes to make the process easier with a clear space for your barcodes and a 2mm line so that you know when you have a large enough sample to test. This will be rolled out in the New Year to replace your current kit. If your bar codes are running low, please let us know earlier, as it takes 10 days to get a new set from the NHS. If you have any concerns before we break up, please email Mr Tyreman at: g.tyreman@samuelcodyhants.sch.uk

This half term we have held a number of primary and secondary year group coffee mornings and afternoons. Many thanks for the support that you have shown in regard to these. It is always nice to meet parents in person and these will continue into the New Year. Our next coffee morning is for primary parents and is due to be held on Friday 14th January at 9:00am. There will be an opportunity to hear about the new Read, Write, Inc. approach that we have adopted in the primary department. Please let us know in advance if you wish to attend and undertake an LFD test that morning if you are able. The next secondary coffee mornings will be for Year 7 parents on Wednesday 26th January from 09:15-10:15, and Year 11 parents on Wednesday 9th February from 09:15-10:15. Again, please let us know if you will be attending and LFD test before you arrive in the morning.

I hope that you found our recent secondary parents evenings and primary parent's afternoons helpful. Following this, you will soon be receiving an end of term report for your child. This will be sent home via the students in their school bags. You will be sent a text to confirm that they have been given to students, so please check bags on their arrival at home.

Our last few days of this term will involve pantomimes for primary and secondary children, as well as Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch on Friday 17th December. Pupils and students should wear their normal school uniform with an optional Christmas jumper on that last day of term. Year 7 will have a Christmas disco and a buffet lunch on Friday 17th. This has been done to help with keeping groups as far away from each other as possible in the last few days in an attempt to remain Covid-19 free as we head towards the Christmas break.

We return to school after the Christmas holiday on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Please can I remind you that we have an inset day booked for Monday 24th January 2022, when the school will be closed to all pupils and students for essential staff training.

Finally, thank you all again for supporting the school and keeping the students safe. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
Samuel Cody School