

Friday 18th December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We have reached the end of what must surely be the toughest term any of us has ever faced. It has been a long and challenging few months, in particular since September when the full school returned. We have maintained our safety measures in school and adapted them where necessary to keep our community secure. I am so grateful to you all and to the staff and pupils for supporting all we have put in place to follow government guidance. From face coverings to constantly open windows, 'bubble' arrangements to hand sanitiser, we have gone far beyond what any of us imagined we would ever experience in a school.

It has been a hard road, but one we have stuck to and we have been fortunate to only suffer a couple of cases of COVID in school. This is a real achievement and has meant the vast majority of pupils have been able to stay in school and learning. To those of you who have had to self-isolate, I would like to say 'thank you' for your patience and your willingness to work with us to keep everyone safe. It does not appear that things are likely to change a great deal in the next few months, so on our return in January we will keep all arrangements in place as they have been since October half-term.

Despite everything we have enjoyed some wonderful Christmas festivities with our annual Christmas jumper day raising money for charity, our COVID-safe Christmas lunch parties, a virtual pantomime performance and pupils being able to benefit from their hard-earned reward points by 'spending' them on items in our new rewards shop. They have purchased over 400 items ranging from revision cards, pens and fancy stationery, to new footballs. Over 100 pupils have also participated in festive rewards activities organised by staff for which they have purchased tickets, again using their positive reward points. Well done to all those who have made a positive contribution to school life showing Commitment, Creativity or Community in the last term.

Uniform

Thank you for your ongoing support with keeping our young people smart. If you are replacing items over the holidays, can I remind you that girls' trousers should be a plain tailored black trouser and not skinny fit or leggings. Skirts should be plain black and pleated sitting just above the knee. If you are replacing shoes, these should be a plain black leather or leather-look shoe with no obvious branding or logos.

If fake eyelashes, nails or nail polish are being put on for the holiday period, please ensure that these are removed prior to starting back at school, as pupils will not be allowed back to lessons if these are still being worn. Please do not have any new piercings done over the holidays which will require a stud or ring to be left in during the day. These will not be allowed unless it is a single stud in each ear lobe.



Mobile device ban

You will have read in my recent letter that we will not be allowing mobile devices including phones to be used on site from 4th January. This is to help us keep your children safe during the time they are in school. Any devices brought into school will have to be switched off and stored out of sight either in a bag or inside blazer pocket. They must remain there throughout the day including at break and lunchtime outside. They can be switched on again as pupils leave the school gates. If mobile devices are seen or heard during the day, they will be confiscated and kept safe in the school office until the end of the school day.

As mentioned in my previous letter, if your child's device is confiscated more than once, we will ask you to come to school to collect it. If you need to contact your child for any reason during the school day, please contact school reception and we will get a message to them. Pupils have been informed that if they need to contact you for any reason, they should speak to a member of staff and we will arrange for them to call you or make contact for them.

Reporting COVID cases over the holidays

I sincerely hope we will not need to use the arrangements below. However, we must remain vigilant in keeping everyone safe.

If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms from the end of the school day on Friday 18th December and up to 2pm on Sunday 20th December, you should arrange for a test. The whole household should self-isolate. If the results of the test are positive, school should be informed immediately so that we can contact other members of the school community who may have been close contacts. Should you need to do this, please use the link located at the top of our school web page to access the form to send us the details. We will then use the school texting system to inform any parents of children who may need to isolate.

SYMPTOMS AFTER 48 HOURS

Should your child begin to display symptoms after 2pm on Sunday 20th December, you should arrange for a test and the whole household should self-isolate pending the outcome of the test. However, school does not need to be informed. You should follow usual test and trace procedures depending on the contacts your child has made.

If your child has a positive COVID19 test result and their symptoms started after Christmas Day, this will affect the day in which they are able to return to school as a result of self-isolation procedures. In such cases, please contact school on 4th January to inform us of when your child will be expected to restart if they are well.

Finally, can I take the opportunity to thank the wonderful staff of CLHS who have gone above and beyond to keep the school open since September. They are an incredibly committed and dedicated group of professionals whose aim is to provide the very best educational experience for our young people. I am hugely indebted to them for their support and hard work during some truly challenging times.

I will close by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Please stay safe and do all you can to keep your loved ones and others safe.

With very best wishes,



Dr Nick Walmsley
Principal