October 2021

Dear Families,

As calendared, school finishes for the half term break at the usual time 2:50pm on **Thursday** **21 October 2021**, returning to school on **Monday 1 November 2021, red week**. Please note that students are **not** in school on Friday 22 October 2021.

Unfortunately, Covid is still with us, and consequently whilst our onsite testing operations have been suspended, all students are still expected to regularly test themselves at home for coronavirus on a Wednesday and Sunday evening. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will continue to respond to and action any confirmed cases of coronavirus in the school community which are reported.  After the school closes at 2:50pm on Thursday 21 October 2021, families should notify school of any positive covid test results via the school’s dedicated email address: [**covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk**](mailto:covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk)**.** As a response to advice from Public Health England, **face coverings**, reintroduced for the final week of school, will need to **continue to be worn** until further notice. This is due to high levels of infection in the wider Manchester community.

When your child / children return to school we require your support in ensuring the highest standards of professionalism, in order to create a positive climate for learning where all students are able to fulfil their full potential. Your child’s / children’s professional attendance, punctuality, organisation, personal presentation and demonstration of respect are crucial if all students in school are to stay safe, are happy and achieve.

As you are already aware, this half-term we have introduced **ClassCharts** to further improve parental communication. To support the functionality for parent/carers and students, we have created guides for parents and students. These can be found on our website.

In the next half term, we will be sending home a **one-page guide** to support families with navigating all of the different software systems we currently have in place. However, meanwhile, if you have any issues logging into ClassCharts, or any other electronic platform, please contact the office who will be able to support you.

Standards of uniform continue to be a priority, as professional dress creates a professional learning environment. May we take this opportunity to request that you support us with ensuring your child is dressed correctly for school. We would like to particularly draw your attention to the following:

* **No jewellery**, other than a watch and a pair of stud earrings worn in each earlobe. No nose studs.
* If your child chooses to wear a pleated grey skirt, they must wear **black tights** at least 60 denier. No socks are to be worn over the top of tights. If students do not wish to wear tights they may choose tailored grey trousers as an alternative.
* **Nails need to be natural and remain unpainted**. No gel or acrylic nails. Any ‘holiday’ nails need to be removed before your child’s return.
* No trainers – all sports brands are banned as school shoes. Please support us by not purchasing sports brands such as Nike, Adidas, Puma or Converse.
* As the weather turns colder we would encourage the wearing of a coat, a hooded top is **NOT** an alternative to a coat.

For further details of uniform requirements and stockists please refer to our website.

Parents choosing to park or wait on Spring Street, parallel to the school, and the bus turning circle are putting the lives of students at risk. Thoughtless parking narrows pedestrian access and reduces visibility for the bus drivers. Please could you keep all of our children safe by finding an alternative waiting space away from the school to drop off or collect your child.

Thank you again for your continued support of our school. Longdendale belongs to the students, by working in partnership together to support school improvement we can build together an even better school where every child, parent and staff member are safe and feel proud to be a part of our community. We would like to wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy half term break.  We look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 1 November 2021, red week, for the remaining half of the Autumn term.

Should you have any questions about the above or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Willis

(Assistant Headteacher)