

# Merry Christmas



Thursday 10th December 2020

Dear Parents,

The staff at Oakfield Academy would like to thank you all for your support over the past term, the messages of appreciation have been heart-warming and have kept us all going.

## End of Term:

You may have heard in the news that the Department for Education (DfE) has suggested that schools choose to put an INSET day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, primarily because they are also asking schools to continue assisting with contact tracing through the holidays. The DfE have also suggested that we balance the INSET day by “bringing forward the start of term in January” but we’re not really sure how best to do that unless anyone would like school to start on New Year’s Day!

We will not be changing our plans at such late notice. We have things planned for the pupils and we also know that a late change could be very difficult for our families in terms of childcare.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Years 5 and 6 will finish at 1:50pm  
Years 7 and 8 will finish at 2pm

The DfE does also ask that we make everyone aware of the arrangements in terms of Covid-19 cases during the school holidays and so it would be helpful if you could make yourselves familiar with the following:

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

So if a pupil or staff member shows symptoms, on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and later receive a positive test result please email this address <[oakfieldacademy@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:oakfieldacademy@educ.somerset.gov.uk)> with details and we will carry out contact tracing. For any positive cases where symptoms begin later in the holidays, please still email to notify us, but contact tracing will not be necessary.

## New Year:

We are continuing to develop the rich curriculum offer for pupils across all key stages and from January more specialist rooms for science, music and DT will be available. We are also able to adapt our English and Maths grouping structure in years 5 and 6 that will further support learning and development. The positive impact of Google Classroom has been evident across the academy with subjects now regularly using the platform to set homework and scholarship tasks for pupils. Being able to provide feedback and engage their interest further has been a feature of this and we ask that you continue to support the pupils with ensuring they are completing the learning tasks that are set for them to do away from the academy.

There will be more transition to lessons for all pupils from January so we ask that they continue to observe the guidance provided by the government;

- All staff and pupils will be required to carry face coverings to wear when moving around the academy.
- They do not need to be worn in classrooms or outside (unless they wish to)
- Good hand hygiene needs to be observed alongside the national rules of Hands, Face, Space



Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January are INSET days, we look forward to welcoming pupils back on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Year 5 are to enter through the red gate at 8:25am

Year 6 are to enter through the silver gate at 8:25am

Year 7 are to enter through the red gate at 8:35am

Year 8 are to enter through the silver gate at 8:35am

We have updated our parents section of our website with useful contacts and organisations that will be able to support in times of need and please find attached contact information from Somerset #1

Wishing you all a Merry, safe Christmas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Wilkes', written in a cursive style.

Miss Emma Wilkes  
Headteacher



Somerset's Local Authorities

## Coronavirus support helpline

# 0300 790 6275

**Available 8am to 6pm, seven days a week**

A single number is now available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus related support from Somerset's Local Authorities. Anyone who can't find help within their community can use the helpline to get help and advice surrounding:

- Emotional support if you're feeling worried or anxious
- Financial support
- Personal care and support including food and delivery of prescriptions
- Housing and support for the homeless
- Social Care or Medical transport needs
- Waste collection and disposal
- Employment, skills and business advice

