

28 January 2022

Dear parents, guardians, carers

I am writing to thank you for your patience and continued support with the **protective measures** recently taken re: **face masks**. These will continue for a further week, then be reviewed.

Given the advice from the Director of Public Health, Dorset, based on the high levels of Covid cases locally, along with the high number of teacher absences this week, we will continue to keep our current arrangements under weekly review. Whatever the political reasons for ignoring the science, the LA and the Director of Public Health are wholly supportive of a continuation of measures given the rise in secondary cases and risk of partial closure. Please rest assured that the school will continue to be sensible in our interpretation of what is safe in our context. At one point this week, the risk of sending some children home due to staff illness was a real consideration. The inconvenience of masks compared with the damage to children's education if we have to partially close, is a difficult balance to strike. Our behaviour policy and appearance code have been adjusted to reflect this situation. I do not want to pre-empt the data, but I genuinely hope that in a week, we will be able to review this and 'step measures down'.

All students must bring masks and exemption lanyards as appropriate. If the weather is cold and as classes are sensibly ventilated, students may wish to wear a **non-visible base layer** under their uniform.

Now that Tatnam Road has re-opened, can we encourage parents dropping their children off by car, to use the rear entrance to the school. Under no circumstances should anyone park by the bus stop on Wimborne Road or in the cycle lanes. This puts cyclists at risk as it causes them to swing out into the middle of the road. We are prepared to ask the police to act if this continues.

Please ensure all students travelling to school by bicycle, wear a helmet for their own safety.

## Term Dates 2022 to 2023

The term dates are now available on the school website: <u>Term Dates 22 to 23</u> A printable copy is also available as on page 2 of this letter.

## Dates this half term

- Thursday 3 February, we look forward to meeting, albeit virtually parents at Year 7 parent evening.
- Thursday 17 February, parent evening for Year 9 with further details to follow shortly.
- w/c 14 February Lunch time, a trial one lunch for all students will be taking place this week from 1.15pm to 1.55pm and students will be informed on further details around this.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

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Academic Year Start Dates						Half Term b	-	Early Closure												
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Tuesday 6 September <b>Year 7, 9, 11, 12, 13</b> Wednesday 7 September <b>Year 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13</b>						Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023  Half Term break (Summer)								Last Day of Term early closure						
Thursday 8 September ALL Year Groups						Monday 29 M		Friday 16 December 2022 – (School Closes												
- Car Groups						Bank Holida		12.30pm/lunch available until 1.00pm)												
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