



December 2021

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of term, I hope that you and your families continue to stay safe and well. I would like to share with you some information regarding the end of term and details for students' return to school in January.

End of Term arrangements

There will be a range of special activities taking place in school over the coming days as we begin to celebrate the festive season. I am delighted that a number of students will be nominated by staff to receive special Christmas treats for living out our school values of Positivity, Ambition, Resilience and Thoughtfulness.

We would like staff and students to enter into the Christmas spirit on our last day of term and wear "own clothes" and a Christmas jumper or something festive on this day. May I remind you that school closes for students at **12 noon on Friday 17th December**.

COVID / Health and Safety

Ahead of the start of the new school term in January, please can I remind you of the following measures that will help us all to stay safe and well:

Students should **NOT** attend school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. These are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not necessarily need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of these symptoms, they should self-isolate at home and you should seek a PCR test. If you are unsure whether your child has COVID symptoms or is otherwise unwell, please contact us before sending them in to school so that we can discuss this with you. Please keep us informed as soon as possible of the outcome of any COVID tests.

The latest government guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>



Please can I also ask you to remind your son/daughter to bring a face covering to school each day as these should continue to be worn in communal areas of the school in line with government guidance.

Start of Term / Testing / Mid-Year Assessments

We are required to carry out asymptomatic on-site testing ahead of students returning to the classroom in January. In order to manage this safely, year groups will attend school for testing on a staggered basis – see table below for dates for **testing** and dates for the **return of each year group to school for lessons**. If you have already given consent for your child to be tested in school, this is sufficient. If you have not yet given consent but wish to do so, please contact your child's Year Leader in the first instance.

	Tuesday 4 th January INSET Day	Wednesday 5 th January	Thursday 6 th January
Year 7	Year 7 students attend school between 9-11am for testing only	Normal lessons in school	Normal lessons in school
Year 8	Remain at home	Year 8 students attend school between 9.30-11.30am for testing only	Normal lessons in school
Year 9	Remain at home	Year 9 students attend school between 11.30am-1.30pm for testing only	Normal lessons in school
Year 10	Year 10 students attend school between 11am-1pm for testing only	Normal lessons in school	Normal lessons in school
Year 11	Year 11 students attend school between 1-3pm for testing only	Normal lessons in school	Normal lessons in school

Parents of students in Years 7-10 will already have received a letter from Mr Mee regarding our mid-year assessment weeks, which will take place from Thursday 6th – Tuesday 18th January. Alongside the festivities, please encourage your child to find time for revision over the Christmas break so that they feel well prepared ahead of these assessments.

As we reach the end of a very long term, I would like to thank you once again for your support. I know how challenging this time has been for everyone but I also know that our BPS values have shone through our school community and I am confident that we will emerge stronger than ever as we go into 2022.

My final thanks must go to my colleagues here at BPS. I cannot tell you how proud I am to work with such a wonderful, dedicated team of staff. They have worked tirelessly this term under the most challenging circumstances to ensure that we provide the very best education possible for your children.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Yours Faithfully



Helen Johnson