



The Chantry School



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9th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Last Day of Term

You will be aware that Government announced yesterday a flexibility for schools to allocate Friday 18th December as teacher training day. The rationale for this is to reduce the timeframe needed for possible contact tracing that stretches into the Christmas break, and the consequent impact on families and school staff. This is a welcome step, and we will therefore be adjusting our end of term plans. The end of term will now be **Thursday 17th December**. This will be a normal school day, ending at 3:20 pm. Lessons will take place in the morning, and a tutor based programme in the afternoon.

Sadly, many of our end of term traditions are necessarily curtailed by current circumstances, as I am sure you understand. However, we will be maintaining some of our traditions to mark the end of term and celebrate within our community. On the final day, pupils can wear a Christmas Jumper with their school uniform. The jumper replaces the blazer, and all other uniform remains the same. This is entirely optional, and no one should feel they have to make a special purchase for this day. We request a £1 charity donation if your child does choose to take part. We will also be presenting a virtual Talent Show that performers have been busy preparing in the last week. We will organise online voting and crown a winner as usual on this last day of term.

Covid-19 Symptoms / End of Term

We are now in a timeframe where should a 14 day isolation be necessary this will impact on Christmas holidays. We have been asked by some parents if their child can access remote learning in the last week of term. Whilst this is an entirely sensible request, schools have been firmly instructed by Government not to allow this, despite schools pointing out both the logic of it and the potential impact on public health. In essence, all pupils are expected to attend school until the last day of term unless they have been instructed to isolate as a contact of a positive case or are otherwise unwell.

We are all familiar with the 3 main coronavirus symptoms:

- A high temperature
- A new and continuous cough
- A loss of smell or taste

If your child is exhibiting any of these, they must not attend school and you should arrange a test for them.

With the approach of the Christmas holidays, I feel it is worth raising awareness of the secondary, or pre-covid, symptoms of covid-19. These are:

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- A shortness of breath
- A loss of appetite
- Muscle aches
- A sore throat
- A persistent headache
- Nasal congestion
- Diarrhoea, nausea and/ or vomiting

Clearly, these are often simply a cold or a tummy upset, and we have seen a great many of these during the term that are exactly that and are not coronavirus. However, we ask that you maintain high vigilance in the next 10 days, and **if you have any doubt please do not send your child to school, and instead book a test.** In this way we will prevent any late spread of the virus that would impact on Christmas plans for us all. In many cases we are seeing rapid return of tests, often within 24 hours, so if that continues the impact on schooling will be minimised. Thank you for your cooperation with this in order that we can keep the community safe.

I will write to you again before the end of term to outline the procedures for contacting school during the holidays and as term begins should you have a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus.

Yours sincerely

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

Andy Dickenson
Headteacher