

11 December 2020

Dear Parents

With the risk of jeopardizing the next few days (!) I am very proud of how COVID safe we have been able to make this term with no reported cases whatsoever. From January, our Upper school bubbles of Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 will join to become one because we are splitting children from Year 5 across the two classes and do not want to split friendships and risk children's own mental health & wellbeing. It also enables us to strengthen the teaching support in both classes to ensure all children are well supported

COVID over the holidays

Nationally, we are about to enter into unusual times. This funny 5 day period where tiers and new family and support bubbles can be formed increases the risk for us all, not to mention relatives who we've spent the last 9 months protecting.

In the first few days of the holidays, it is REALLY IMPORTANT to notify me please if you or anyone in your household gets any symptoms of COVID and the outcomes of any test. The DfE have asked headteachers to be 'on call' for the first 6 days of holiday to support track and trace. Clearly, we may need to let others know from your child's bubble if they've had close contact with others and we'll need to do this promptly. As always, please use my email e.jefferies@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk

To be clear: *please make contact with me if you or a member of your household develops symptoms in the 48hrs after next Friday which then results in a positive test. I will then undertake track and trace for adults and children that may be also affected.*

Please DO NOT use Dojo or my mobile number. I will not be monitoring either of these for school related work over the holidays.

COVID in January

I will begin monitoring my emails again in the 48hrs before returning to school in January so that I know which children may be off for COVID isolation purposes on our return.

Financial support and food support over the festive period

An ex-parent of the school has set up a fabulous fund in Stockbridge and has been inundated with hamper, present and fresh food gifts for families within the parish and a few beyond too. They have so much stuff and I'd like to know if anyone would like to access this – please do drop me an email if you are interested so that I can explain more.

You are also probably aware of the Marcus Rashford campaign – his impact has been significant and I will be talking to various families about the financial support this offers. If you feel you would benefit from access to this because your situation has changed over COVID months, please do approach me so I can explain a bit more about the benefits.



January changes

In January, our start and finish times are changing slightly. The staggered starts are working well but there are long periods where no one turns up! We are also losing the half hour on the morning when teachers would brief support staff so that they can be really effective that day. In order to redress this balance, we will be following NEW start times and finish times as follows:

Start times		Finish times	
08:45 – 08:50	Surnames A-G	15:15 – 15:20	Surnames A-G
08:50 – 08:55	Surnames H – P	15:20 – 15:25	Surnames H – P
08:55 – 09:00	Surnames Q - Z	15:25 – 15:30	Surnames Q - Z

In the main school, we have been testing children this week in school to check for progress and we are very pleased with the results so far with almost all children having made good progress and the vast majority having 'caught up' from the COVID time out which was exactly our intention for this term.

With the exception of a few hiccups on sound or connection, the virtual parent's evenings worked well for our community and we will be running parent's evenings again before February half term so that we can catch you up on your child's progress and how they've settled into the new term – this will be rolled out to pre-school parents too next term. More details will be available in the new term.

Finally.....

Thankyou. From September until now, we have had unwavering support from you all and your children were well prepared to come back to school in September which made our jobs so much easier and their settling in process smoother. Thankyou for bearing with us over our COVID closure too. We're all aware that you haven't seen inside school or been part of the usual community on the playground for almost all of this calendar year which must feel so strange. Let's hope that 2021 brings good news, a return to more mixing and a bit of the old normal....all in good time!

In the meantime, please do enjoy a safe and happy Christmas and enjoy 2 weeks of having your children home with no Google Classroom to do!!

Kind regards,



Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

