



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/January

18 December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

We had planned to write a joint letter to you at the end of what has been an unusual term to wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and to thank you for your support and cooperation this term. We do all hope you have an enjoyable and safe holiday period. We hope that despite the circumstances this year that you nonetheless have a good and restful break. We have really appreciated your role as parents and guardians this year more than ever. We have cause to be very thankful, that over-all, infection rates in our town have stayed comparatively low for most of the term. This has meant that compared to many schools in other regions we have been able to maintain good levels of student attendance in school most weeks. Unfortunately, there have been unavoidable periods of Distance Learning for some groups. We have been humbled by students' and parents' understanding and good grace when this has happened. We would like to thank you all.

Start of Next Term

You will have seen on the news last night that there are changes to the start of term next year, from Gavin Williamson, our Education Minister. The details of this came to schools at 6.30pm last night. Please forgive us therefore for these last minute and unexpected changes to our plans. These will be our arrangements:

1. Pupils in Years 11 and 13 should attend school as they had expected to do from 4th January 2021, with school transport running as usual. For Year 11 this will mean they simply attend lessons as normal. For year 13 the plans and arrangements for mock exams and study leave will continue as already planned and distributed.
2. Pupils in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will return to the classroom on 11th January 2021. They will have a full timetable of Distance Learning from 8.40am on the 4th January. Their day will follow the school timetable and there will be live elements for most lessons. Pupils and parents will find everything they need on SatchelOne and lots of resources and links on our website.
3. A small minority of pupils from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will qualify to attend a supported school group. This small group will be comprised of pupils with vulnerabilities and those of 'critical workers.' A group of this sort ran for a small number of students through the summer term during the extended lockdown period. Please view the attached form and complete the request section if you feel your child should be included within this provision by Thursday, 31st December if you need to apply for a place.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2s8TOK9SpUy44yMVeXcKuuUDtb9yViVDk0J2RwpOS1UOFg0MVNIVVpPsZa1UVU0OE1KSTBSMDFLMC4u>

Mr White will then confirm whether your application has met the Government criteria and the arrangements for your child.

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Schools' Partnership

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Rapid Testing

During this first week of term our school will be responding to a new challenge set for us by the Government. We are being asked to work to establish a Rapid Testing Centre / Service in our school for pupils/staff. As always, we will endeavour to rise to the challenge and do our best with this new duty. It is however entirely new territory for us and as yet we are unsure about how it will work. We will of course keep you informed and write to you at the start of term about how we will operate it. We understand it will not be compulsory for any our community and it will only be accessed by members of our community. More details later.

We believe it is anticipated that the Rapid Testing Service will be partially run by volunteers. We are interested to hear from any parents or contacts who could potentially support this new work. If you would like to express an interest at this early stage as we design a way forward, please contact the Trust leaving your name and phone number at:

volunteer@trusted-schools.com

and Mrs Godden, or one of her team will get back to you. We are not sure about how this will all work at present, but we feel an early indication of capacity from our community could be useful.

Keeping Us Informed

We ask you to continue to let us know about infections and Covid19 matters through the holidays please. There are two things we specifically need to know. Please contact us on covid.support@oldburywells.com in either of these two circumstances:

1. Please let us know if your child has a positive Covid19 result after a test on 18th, 19th or 20th December. This is because we will need to work with you to Track and Trace contacts from the last couple of days of school term.
2. Please let us know if your child is in quarantine/ill where this will run into the week starting 4th January. This is a requirement for our attendance register.

We will also be happy to hear from you about any Covid issues as they affect your family, as it allows us to form an understanding of the local picture and to support families where appropriate.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday period and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Kind regards
Yours faithfully



Lee Tristham
Headteacher
Oldbury Wells School



Sarah Godden
CEO
Trusted Schools' Partnership

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