



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/xmasltr

15 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: End of Term Updates

As we approach our last week in school, I wanted to provide some important updates for all families to help support the end of term, alongside ensuring everyone is aware of arrangements for the start of the new Spring term in January 2024.

End of Term Arrangements

Our last day of term is Thursday, 21st December with school finishing at the normal time of 3:15pm. From next Monday, 18th December, we have various year group trips to the cinema, bowling and other activities to celebrate the festive period. We also look forward to bringing the whole school together during our Christmas assembly on the last day of term, alongside our now traditional whole school Christmas quiz in the afternoon.

Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner (Tuesday, 19 December)

On Tuesday, 19th December we will be encouraging all students to wear their Christmas jumpers (in place of their school blazer) and to contribute a £1 to go towards Save the Children. We also have a cake sale on the day to raise further funds; thanks to all involved. Alongside this we will be celebrating with our Christmas dinner and look forward to all students enjoying time together during their festive lunch, prepared by our school catering team, Caterlink.

Start of Spring Term – January 2024

For students, the new term starts on Tuesday, 9th January 2024 following an initial PD day for staff; this is a Week 2 on the timetable for all students.

Thank You to Staff

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to two of our longest serving members of staff. **Mrs Chapman** moves on to a promoted post having given 23 years of service to the school. Over her many years with us she has played a key role in school life supporting many young people and families and being central to our many successes over the years, particularly within the Business Studies & ICT department. I know our staff and students are going to miss her and we wish her all the very best for the future. We also say goodbye to **Mrs Fyfe** who retires at the end of term after almost 20 years at Oldbury Wells. Mrs Fyfe has done amazing work supporting students as they transition from GCSE to post 16, and then for those who have joined Bridgnorth 6th form, supporting their journey with us and then onto university and the world of work. To quote one student, "she has always been there and been so supportive; we are grateful for all she has done for so many". Finally, we say goodbye to **Mr Walmsley** from the site team; we have an amazing team who work hard to maintain our site and provide the very best environment for our school community, Mr Walmsley has always provided the very best level of support with no job ever too big. I am sure you will join me in a saying a big thank you and wishing good luck to them all!

Aspire | Enjoy | Achieve

School Safety

During this particularly busy period, can I please remind parents of the need to park safely while waiting to pick up students from school, being aware of the safe school zones which should not be used. Parents should have heightened awareness around the school crossing area which provides a main throughway for our students across site. The road layout is designed to support all pedestrians and drivers, it is important we adhere to the requirements of the identified zones to keep everyone safe.

Preparing for the New Term

Looking forward to January, staff have an initial PD Day focusing on how we continue to develop our work in school to support students' personal development, alongside their academic success. At the heart of this are the **Character Traits** which we continuously refer to throughout school and which were further discussed in assemblies this week to allow students to reflect during the holiday period on their own progress this term. As you are aware, we ask our students to always be Ready, Respectful and Safe in school and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year ready to move on successfully into the Spring term.

On our return we will be undertaking our regular uniform checks. We recognise the importance of students being smart in school and would ask all parents to take any action required over the holiday period to support our school uniform requirements, details of which can be found on our website:

<https://www.oldburywells.com/parentguardian-information/uniform>

Can I use this opportunity to thank all students, families and staff for their ongoing support, we will as always be sharing our end of term newsletter next week but would like to use this initial opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Lee Tristham
Headteacher