

CLO/jr
10 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Whilst you received a letter from me regarding all important dates for next term and the plan for the end of term, I wanted to write this letter (as last half-term) to update you about the impact that Coronavirus has had on us at Wildern this half-term.

Firstly, thank you for your continued support; knowing that we are all working together makes a huge difference. By continuing to follow all the public health guidance and only sending your child(ren) into school when they are well has meant that the school has only had 2 confirmed cases across our student body and 2 across our staff. This is significantly lower than most Secondary schools in the area.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safety of both our students and staff but we feel it is important the information below is shared with you.

November-December	<p>Our staggered start and end times are working well in order to keep the Year groups as separate as possible and the purchasing of food in both breaks has been well received throughout the half-term.</p> <p>The zone system is again working well during break times and before school. We have decided that the Year groups will change their zones from the start of January in order for different Year Groups to experience the privileges that some zones naturally have.</p> <p>The use of face masks in communal areas, one way systems and the application of hand sanitiser are continuing to be reinforced and embedded in routines.</p>
Attendance	<p>School attendance has remained at 95% and we are really pleased with the huge effort our families have made to get our young people into school amidst such change.</p> <p>Please continue to send your children to school, prepared with a mask and continue to highlight the actions they need to take to keep everyone safe.</p> <p>Remember to contact the school absence line via email or phone call if your child is ill and be explicit about why they are off school.</p>
Learning	<p>We have remained steadfast that students moving to different classrooms across the day is beneficial for their well-being and their learning.</p>

	<p>We have completed a WAD report on each Year Group which you can access via INSIGHT but have been pleased overall with the attitude our students are displaying to their learning.</p> <p>At this time, students are still sitting facing the front for safety reasons. We are hopeful that at some point this year we will be able to return to more conducive ways of teaching.</p> <p>Extra-curricular activities will begin in earnest in January unless we hear otherwise from the government. Many of our students have told us how desperate they are to have these take place.</p>
<p>Self-isolating/isolating</p>	<p>Across this half term we have seen students and staff self-isolating/isolating when there has been occasion to believe that they or their household has COVID symptoms.</p> <p>Figures up to Wednesday 9th Dec:</p> <p>Staff: 41 staff (teachers and non-teachers)</p> <p>Students: 242 incl. siblings</p> <p><u>As a reminder:</u></p> <p>Once a student/member of staff calls into school regarding staying home whilst awaiting a test, the school will send out a google form to ask for information about the 48hours previously. This is in case the student/staff member exhibits symptoms within 48 hours of being at school. This enhances our track and trace system we have set up at school and ensures we have all the information we would need when talking to Public Health England/Department for Education.</p> <p>As you know, we had our second positive test on 9th November and once more our systems worked well and worked in tandem with the guidance given by the DFE on the day.</p>
<p>What to do if you child(ren) displays symptoms during the holiday/receives a positive test</p>	<p>Please follow the attached flow diagram to ensure that all students, their families and school staff can be alerted.</p>
<p>Celebrating our students</p>	<p>There have been many opportunities across the half-term for us to celebrate the successes of our students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ● 1665 positive e-postcards have been sent home based on the Student's overall e-ref score

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 945 positive department e-postcards have been sent home based on individual success within subject areas ● Bronze attribute badges ● Half and Full Colours ● Music grading certificates ● Our Christmas celebration assemblies
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Expectations for Jan 2021	<p>We feel that we need to revisit some key expectations next term with our students and thought we would share these with you too.</p> <p>Please support us with these expectations.</p>
Uniform	<p>Students need to be wearing the correct uniform at all times - green jumper, tie, black trousers/school skirt, black shoes</p> <p>or</p> <p>PE/Dance polo shirt, black or blue joggers/leggings, green jumper</p> <p>If students are cold they are able to wear coats in lessons/can wear base layers under their uniform.</p> <p>Hoodies/other colour joggers/black jeans etc are not permitted.</p> <p>Please ensure that any necessary uniform purchases are fully in line with our school uniform. Information regarding all uniform expectations are on our website/in student planners.</p>
Behaviour	<p>Our students know how to behave and what our expectations are. We need a small minority to ensure that they are at all times meeting these expectations.</p>
Masks	<p>1436 disposable masks (up to 30th Nov) have been provided to students this term. As these are disposable they therefore will end up in bins that fill landfill/end up in the ocean.</p> <p>As a green flag eco-school we are concerned with this number and the impact it has on the environment.</p> <p>Therefore, from Jan, if a student does not have a mask they will be provided with a black reusable mask at a cost of £1.00. We hope that this will encourage students to bring their own mask to school and at the same time support the environment.</p>
Out of bounds area	<p>Over the last few weeks of term we have seen an increasing number of students hanging around in the woods opposite the school and/or blocking the Stoney Lane path.</p>

	As in previous years, we are highlighting that this area is out of bounds and we ask that students keep walking towards home when leaving school.
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I hope that the above information gives you a flavour of the work we have completed over this half term; we feel it is important that you know what we have been focused upon.

Thank you for your support once more. I'm sure you are eagerly awaiting the Christmas break and so I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous, peaceful 2021. This will be a different Christmas to any other year. However, let's not forget that, "**Christmas Day will always be just as long as we have we.**" (Narrator, Animated Special: How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (1966)). I hope that you and your family are able to create lots of happy memories during the festive period.

Best wishes

Mrs C Oakley
Headteacher