

8 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the autumn term draws to a close, I write with important information regarding the start and end of term arrangements.

Break up - Friday 16 December 12.05 pm

- Non-school uniform day in aid of our House charities (Water Aid, Help Harry Help Others, Mad Hatters and Jigsaw). Pupils with PE on this day must still bring their PE kit.
- All pupils will be dismissed at 12.05 pm.
- Extended break time (10.40 am 11.10 am) enabling all pupils to purchase food.

Normal lessons will take place up to and including the last day of term, although we have a number of additional enrichment opportunities taking place: Inter-house football, Talent Show, Christmas dinner (14 December), and celebration assemblies.

Return to school – Tuesday 3 January 2023 <u>9.40 am</u>

Pupils should be on site by 9.40 am and go straight to their Period 2 lesson.

Importance of good hygiene

You may have seen information in the news regarding higher than normal numbers of children under 10 with scarlet fever and Group A strep. Whilst the Department for Education are carefully monitoring the situation nationally, I can confirm there are currently no outbreaks within our school or the community. It is a common illness, particularly at this time of year, and although there have been a few high profile cases of tragic circumstances in other areas of the country, the number of reported deaths from this illness are no higher than normal rates. More information, including signs and symptoms can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep

If your child is diagnosed with scarlet fever or Group A strep please do contact the attendance team to report this. It is fine for pupils, if well enough, to attend school 24 hours after they have started the course of antibiotics for these illnesses.

There are always higher number of incidences of illness at this time of year and it is, therefore, important to remind your children to practice good hygiene at all times. We still have hand sanitising stations around school that all pupils are able to access, encourage pupils to not touch each other or surfaces unnecessarily, and to cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing.

Key dates

Please find below the key dates for this half term. A full list of term dates (including staff training days) and the school calendar can be found on our school website.

Wednesday 1 February - Staff training afternoon. Pupils will be dismissed at 12.05 pm.

Tuesday 17 January - Year 10 parents' evening

Friday 17 February – Break up for half term at 3.15 pm

Monday 27 February - Return to school 8.40 am

Tuesday 7 March – Year 9 options and parents' evening

Wednesday 8 March – Year 11 mock exam fortnight begins

Friday 31 March – Break up for Easter holidays at 12.05 pm

Monday 8 May – Additional bank holiday for the King's coronation – School closed

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry, safe Christmas and a happy, healthy new year!

Yours faithfully

B Make

Miss K Slater

Headteacher

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