

7 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Prep (Years 3-6) Covid-Secure Arrangements – December 2021**

Further to Mr Hewlett's announcement this evening, I would like to take the opportunity to share with you how disappointed we all are with the necessary amendments we have had to make to these final days of term. We appreciate, as always, the ongoing support and cooperation of our parents to ensure that school remains a safe, secure and happy place for our pupils. Please also let me provide you with some reassurance that it would take a great deal more than this to dampen our Christmas enthusiasm and we have every intention of making the final few days of term as (safely) festive as a Junior School can be!

The purpose of this letter is to outline key arrangements for the Prep year groups, where we have witnessed a significant rise in Covid cases, beginning on Wednesday 8 December 2021. I therefore request that you take the time to read the letter in full to ensure that key points are digested fully, ahead of school tomorrow.

#### **Drop Off and Collection**

In order to limit year groups mixing and large numbers of parents on site at the same time, we will return to staggered drop off and collection arrangements for Prep year groups only. We will be in touch next week to confirm what the timings will be on the final day of term, but we will continue to require early collection for all pupils, at around 1200.

Where parents have children in multiple year groups, we request that you drop each child off and collect them within their allocated window, waiting off-site for the brief period between, if needed.

| <b>Drop Off Time</b>   | <b>Field Gate</b>              | <b>West Gate</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>0820-0830</b>       | Year 3                         | Year 4           |
| <b>0830-0840</b>       | Year 5                         | Year 6           |
| <b>Collection Time</b> | <b>Headmaster's House Gate</b> | <b>West Gate</b> |
| <b>1535-1545</b>       | Year 3                         | Year 4           |
| <b>1545-1555</b>       | Year 5                         | Year 6           |

#### **Forder Programme**

To avoid cross-bubble mixing in Prep, all Forder Programme activities will be cancelled until further notice, with a range of Christmas activities replacing our Friday Forder sessions. Forder Programme activities were only due to take place until tomorrow, so this is only a change to activities due to take place on Wednesday 8 December. LAMDA takes place in bubble groups and will therefore continue as normal.

### **Before and After School Care**

Before and After School Care will take place as normal, with Pre-Prep remaining separate from Prep. Please be aware that staffing will not enable us to keep Prep year groups entirely separate, so please sign your child up in the knowledge that they may engage in activities with children in other Prep year groups, where positive Covid cases may be higher. We ask that you make bookings with this in mind, but an assurance that year groups will be separate when this is easy to maintain, and where pupil numbers are lower. Our priority is to continue to offer this facility to our parents as we understand the pressing need for it in many of our Junior School families.

### **Ventilation**

Please be aware that staff have been advised to ensure that there is good ventilation in classrooms, with windows and doors left open. We therefore advise that your child wears suitable layers underneath their uniform and we will allow them to keep coats on in class if they are feeling cold. We request that you ensure they bring their school coat, hat and scarf in each day.

### **Bubble Groups**

Due to high numbers of Covid infections in Prep, particularly Years 5 and 6, we will be reintroducing bubble groups. This will involve separate seating in the Refectory, segregated play times and remote assemblies, to avoid cross-bubble mixing as much as possible.

### **Hand Sanitiser**

We recommend that your child brings their own hand sanitiser to school with them.

### **Face Coverings**

Public Health England have not advised that masks are required in junior settings, and we are not recommending that these are worn by our Prep pupils. Should you prefer for your child to wear a face covering, you are able to send them in with one, but we ask that you email your child's Form Teacher in advance to make them aware. Children who are wearing masks should be informed by parents at home of how to do so safely, e.g. not sharing them with their friends.

### **Testing**

While there is no necessity to test your child on lateral flow devices, you may wish to do so more regularly with Covid infection rates being higher in your child's year group. Should you wish to order a box of lateral flow tests for your family, please use the link [here](#).

If your child displays any Covid [symptoms](#), we request that you do not bring them to school until you have received a negative PCR test result. If your child is symptomatic, a negative result on a lateral flow test is insufficient and a PCR test is required prior to a return to school.

### **Events**

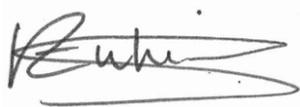
Due to our 'amber' categorisation of Covid measures, I am afraid we have been advised to cancel any events that may link to bubble mixing and large gatherings of people. With this in mind, I outline all cancelled events in the Junior School in the final days of term. It is with great regret that I share this with you, and I thank you in advance for your understanding.

| Event                | Date                                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 8 December | Reception-Year 2 Performance               |
| Thursday 9 December  | Junior School Carol Service                |
| Friday 10 December   | The Friends of St Dunstan's Christmas Fair |
| Tuesday 14 December  | House Christmas Challenge                  |
| Thursday 16 December | The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols      |

I can confirm that Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day will be going ahead on Wednesday 15 December, with pupils remaining in bubble groups. Any tickets of cancelled events will be refunded to parents.

We will be discussing this with pupils tomorrow in classes, but please do share this news with them if you are able to in advance. We understand how upsetting it will be for them and please let me reassure you this will be handled sensitively by our teachers and the Junior School staff. We will do all that we possibly can to celebrate the end of a hugely successful term with them.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Whitwood  
**Head of Junior School**