



KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mr J Christey

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Dear Parents/Carers

You may have noticed some debate surrounding schools staying open in the lead up to Christmas. The bottom line is that we are all understandably worried that if a child is identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case in the lead up to the Christmas break, then they would be required to isolate up to and beyond December 25th.

Despite these concerns, the Government is very clear in saying that schools should not reduce attendance in school during the last week of term. Therefore, they have suggested that we close the school to pupils on Friday 18th December for an INSET day, meaning the last day of this school term will be **Thursday 17th December**.

Thursday 17th December will follow normal school start and finish times and will also be the day of our annual Christmas Jumper Day. Pupils are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper or mufti and bring a donation. Funds raised will be split between Katherine House Hospice and Save the Children.

Please be assured that this INSET day is not an additional one, but will instead replace one that had been planned for June 2021.

As you know we strongly encourage good attendance for all of our pupils and this continues to be our message. However, it is important that we do everything we can to avoid any positive cases in the final week of term. Therefore, we feel it is important to share the following advice with you to be followed until the end of this term:

- If anyone in your household starts to show any of the main 3 symptoms of COVID-19 please **DO NOT** send your child to school. Book a test ASAP. **DO NOT** allow your child to return to school until a negative test has been received.
- You are encouraged to book a test if your child displays certain other symptoms (e.g. headache, aches and pains, feeling very tired for no good reason, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing, sometimes tummy ache in children). In these circumstances you can still send your child to school but in the lead up to Christmas if your child is unwell please consider keeping them at home until a negative test result has been received.
- Encourage your child to practice good hygiene at all times including regular hand washing and sanitizing.

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- Ensure your child brings their mask to school each day (unless exempt).
- Please be extra mindful of children socialising outside of school and always refer to the restrictions currently in place as a Tier 3 area.
- If you have any concerns at all about the above, please contact the Attendance Office to discuss your specific case.

We will continue with the safety measures in place within school and monitor the situation over the next week or so. We will act immediately in the event of any COVID related symptoms or absences within school. We will also continue to provide remote learning to any pupil who is having to self-isolate during the last week or so of the school term.

If we all follow the guidance and act swiftly in line with this, then we have every chance of making it to the Christmas holidays without any further cases. However, if people don't work together then we risk positive cases occurring. Please also note that we are being asked to act as a test and trace service for up to 6 days after the last day of term and so you may be contacted in the days after we break up if a positive case is identified and other pupils are impacted by this.

I desperately do not want to be telling any pupil that they are required to isolate over the Christmas period, but we need your help and cooperation to reduce the risk of this happening.

To report any Covid related information over the holiday period, please email **covid@kevi.org.uk**

Thank you for your continued support over this incredibly challenging first term back. Our school community has done exceptionally well to manage the spread of this virus and that is thanks to our staff, yourselves and of course the pupils. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Christey
Headteacher