

Headteacher update - 14

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's Friday again, so we are updating you on how life has been in school this week, plans for next week and also information about the holiday period.

Since writing to you last week we have had three further confirmed positive student cases of COVID-19. There were no close contacts for these cases as the students were already self-isolating and therefore not in school.

Thank you for your continued support this week with our rota system, it has made running the school manageable with the staff that we had available. At this point it looks much better for next week, we have more staff returning from self-isolation, as promised we have reviewed our capacity and are able to suspend the rota, therefore all year groups can return to school next week.

The exception to this is Year 9 who are still self-isolating on Monday, so they will return to school on Tuesday 15th December. To enable us to run effectively, we will not be delivering live lessons to Year 9 on Monday, they will revert back to teachers sending work via email.

You may well have seen the press coverage regarding the option for schools to move an INSET day to Friday 18th December allowing for the term to finish on Thursday. After careful consideration and liaising with other local schools we have decided **not** to change our end of term, therefore school will finish for students on Friday 18th December as planned.

As we move into the last week of term, if your child shows any signs of COVID related symptoms or are generally feeling unwell, please do not send them into school. We would like to avoid as much as possible students and staff having to self-isolate over the Christmas period.

We will continue to monitor any positive cases after the end of term up to Christmas Eve. If we are alerted to any positive cases, we will carry out our normal track and trace process with HCC Public Health and notify close contacts who need to self-isolate.

During the holiday period if your child is tested positive for COVID-19 you should contact communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk – **this will be monitored until Christmas Eve as after this point your child shouldn't be a close contact of anyone at the school. If your child tests positive after the 24th December, please do still notify the school so that we can communicate with you on Monday 4th January 2021.**

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- *a high temperature*
- *a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours*
- *a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

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If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to nursery or school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 14 day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus



Christmas Jumper Day-11th December

It has been great to see so many students and staff supporting this cause by wearing some amazing Christmas jumpers today. We will let you know how much we raised next week, thank you to all who joined in today and supported this whole school event.

Safer Schools Newsletter

Hertfordshire Constabulary have sent the December safe schools' newsletter which is attached with lots of useful advice and reminders for parents to share with their children.

Online Targeted Parenting Courses Spring term

Attached is a list of free parenting courses offered next term with a wide range of topics from Understanding ADHD to handling anger in your family.

Reminder: Free School Meals

Hertfordshire County Council is teaming up with the Family Food Trust, a government backed charity, to help them to deliver food vouchers to children and young people in receipt of free school meals during the winter school holidays. This follows recent government announcements of the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme, part of this funding will be allocated to providing food vouchers to entitled families this Christmas holiday and in February 2021 half-term.

A total of £30 per entitled child will be provided for the Christmas holidays (10 days) and £15 per child for the February 2021 half-term (5 days). Families will receive support for each of these holidays separately, before the end of each term.

The electronic vouchers for food and groceries can be used in four major supermarkets (Asda, Morrisons, Tesco and Sainsbury's) and will be sent to families directly by email or if necessary, they can be printed, and we will distribute them.

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The school, Hertfordshire County Council and the Family Food Trust will need to access and share personal data of pupils and students who are entitled to free school meals to enable us to provide food vouchers directly to eligible families. This data will include the name and contact details of each pupil/student and parent/carer and the name of the School they attend. All information shared will be used solely for the purpose of distributing food vouchers; no personal information will be shared with any other partner or third party, and data will only be retained for the length of time of the food voucher support offer. Data will be stored and transferred securely from your school to Hertfordshire County Council and then to the Family Food Trust. **Please ensure the School has your up to date contact details.**

If you do not wish your child(ren) to be included in this voucher scheme or if you have any concerns please contact Hertfordshire County Council at: educationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk. For further information about Hertfordshire County Council's Privacy Policy please click [here](#).

Families who do not qualify for free school meals but are worried about their finances or having enough food this winter can contact HertsHelp, email info@hertshelp.net, call 0300 123 4044 or visit www.hertshelp.net

REMINDER: COVID-19 Webpage

If you have any queries about COVID-19 and Barnwell School, please visit our designated COVID-19 webpage. This page has information regarding our COVID-19 procedures as well as our [school contingency plans](#), information guides and all previous parent/carer communication. <https://www.barnwellschool.co.uk/covid-19-info-2/>

Reminder: Barnwell Community Clothing and Food Bank

In these unprecedented times if you feel you could do with some support in the form of a contribution from our Community clothing and food bank then please do not hesitate to email us in confidence at communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk.

Reminder: PE Uniform

Only Barnwell school hoodies are allowed to be worn with the PE uniform, students can wear their school jumper or blazer over their PE uniform during the day.

REMINDER: Parent/Carer meetings

As we have been advised to reduce the number of visitors coming into school, we would remind you that meetings will continue to be held using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or conducted via a phone call.

REMINDER: Communications

Could we please remind parents and carers that due to the current structure of the school day and increased duties, on occasion, staff will not be able to return communication within the school day. A reminder of the school communication protocols set up last year can be found by clicking [this link](#).

If you would like clarification regarding any school matters, please do not hesitate to get in contact via communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Thank you once again for your support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Fitzpatrick
Executive Headteacher

Mr Roberts
Head of School