



Hebburn Comprehensive School

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DRT/KM

Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

11 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I usually start my termly newsletters saying how busy the term has been, but that would be an understatement, given the operational complexities that schools have had to navigate this year.

It has been a monumental achievement to remain fully open, given both the local and national picture since returning in September. Like all schools, we have had to send bubbles home to isolate, in line with national guidance, but a phenomenal team effort in school has allowed pupils to return to the high standard of education they deserve, albeit with some restrictions.

The end of term will be a little different this year, but we are planning to have various activities, as well as prizes for good work and attendance. Miss Hood has posted letters on the school website with details of 'Christmas Jumper Day' on Friday 11 December and 'The Customs House Christmas Adventure' on Thursday 17 December. We have also been collecting food for our local foodbanks; please see the post on our Facebook page for further details and how you can help.

KEY DATES:

- School will finish **on Friday 18 of December at 12.00pm**. If your child is in receipt of free school meals and requires a 'grab bag' on the last day of term, please ask them to inform their form tutor before Wednesday 16 December, so numbers are received in advance.
- **School will re-open on Monday 4 January**, as per current arrangements. We will still need to stagger entry and dismissal times.
- **The school is closed to pupils on Friday 15 January for staff training, re-opening on Monday 18 January as normal.**
- Pupils break up for half term on Friday 12 February, returning on Monday 22 February.
- We break up for Easter on Thursday 1 April, with pupils coming back to school on Monday 19 April.

STAFF NEWS

In November, Mrs Mordue, Senior Intervention Manager, who has been at the school since 2005, left to take up a Head of Year post at Jarrow School. We wish Mrs Mordue well in her new role and pass on our sincere thanks and gratitude for the outstanding contribution she has made to Hebburn Comprehensive in her time with us. We are all going to miss her.

THE NEW TERM

Over the course of the term, pupils have responded well to the challenges that this pandemic has presented. On return in January, it is important that pupils get into positive routines quickly, so learning can be maximised. This is important for all year groups, but particularly for Year 11, with exams now confirmed as taking place in the summer. There will be more information about this in the new year, but pupils should be approaching their studies with this in mind.



learn | achieve | aspire | succeed

REMINDERS FOR JANUARY

- Pupils should arrive to school at the allocated time:

YEAR 7	8.40am
YEAR 8	8.55am
YEAR 9	8.45am
YEAR 10	8.50am
YEAR 11	8.35am

- It is important that pupils arrive only 5 minutes before their start time.
- Pupils should be equipped for learning and must be in full, correct uniform, including a face covering, unless exempt. A reminder that face coverings must be worn in all communal areas and on public transport.
- The hand sanitising procedures around school are well established and will continue in the new term.
- Pupils should make their way directly home at the end of the school day.
- Only pupils picking up siblings should be waiting outside of our local primary schools.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND THE NHS

- If your child starts to develop symptoms of COVID-19 within the 48-hr period after breaking up on Friday 18 December, so that would be any time on Saturday 19 December or Sunday 20 December (up until 12noon), and goes on to test positive, you must inform the school, via email, at covid@hebburn.net.
- If your child develops symptoms after midday on Sunday 20 December, you do not need to contact the school, but you must follow the advice from NHS test and trace.
- In the email, you must include the following (only email if symptoms develop in the 48-hr period specified above):
 - Your child's full name and D.O.B
 - Your child's year group
 - When your child started displaying symptoms – date and time required
 - When the test took place
 - When the result came back
 - An up to date number to contact you on
- The inbox will be monitored by the Head Teacher.
- Please note that this inbox will close at 12noon on Christmas Eve. Any information after that will need to go to NHS test and trace; the school will not be able to respond.

IDENTIFYING CLOSE CONTACTS

- If we do have a positive case within the time frames highlighted above and you receive a text to say that your child is a close contact, he/she must isolate for the time frame specified. Other members of the household can go about their normal business, within the parameters of current restrictions, unless symptoms develop, in which case the whole household should isolate, and a test should be booked.
- Please note that the school will be following government guidance. The last thing we would want to do is break this news over the holiday period, but we must adhere to government guidance.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

Those families in receipt of free school meals will receive a voucher via email by Friday 11 December. I wrote to Marcus Rashford in June to thank him, on behalf of our school community, for the campaign he has led to end holiday hunger. He is an inspiration and an outstanding role model to young people.

FINALLY...

I would like to thank the staff of the school for the herculean effort throughout the term to keep the school open. It has been, in every sense, a real team effort by the whole school community, and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved, in the most challenging of circumstances.

My sincere thanks to parents and carers for your continued support throughout the term.

Wishing all families, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Mr D R Thompson
Head Teacher