

6 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems unbelievable that we have almost completed our first term this year, I just wanted to send you some updates, including updates regarding current COVID guidance and arrangements for the end of term.

### **Updates to COVID guidance**

As a reminder all students should be wearing face masks in communal areas in school, please ensure that your child has a face mask with them in school every day.

If we have a case of Omicron in school the current national guidance is that all contacts, including school contacts, will need to isolate as before. It is really important that we do everything we can to prevent this happening and keep students in school, especially in these last few weeks before Christmas.

- If your child has symptoms of COVID please isolate them at home and arrange a PCR test in line with national guidance. A lateral flow test is not sufficient in this case.
- **If you have a positive COVID case in the household please arrange for all other household members to have a PCR test and keep your child at home until a result is received. Please do not take them to other clubs or social events during this time.**
- If the PCR is positive please follow national advice and isolate- this is required by law.
- If the PCR is negative your child can return to school, but if they are able please consider daily lateral flow testing for seven more days.
- Please continue using lateral flow tests regularly as a family, lateral flow tests can also be used by younger children if you feel happy and able to do this.
- Any positive lateral flow test must be confirmed with a PCR test in line with national guidance. Variants such as Omicron can only be detected through a PCR test.

Current advice is that any child who has received a positive PCR test does not need to test again, unless they develop new symptoms, for 90 days as they should have a good level of protection against the virus.

Everyone over the age of 12 years is able to receive COVID vaccination. If you or members of your family have not yet had this please go to Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) or call 119 for more information.

### **Additional INSET days**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January will be INSET days, the lateral flow testing for students will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. There have been a lot of changes this year, this includes several new systems across the school. This time will be used to continue the embedding of these new systems within school.

### **Children in Need**

We enjoyed Children in Need day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, through our non-uniform day we raised over £1000. Year 7 students also enjoyed looking for Pudsy Bears around the school during lunch time as well!

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

We have had an amazing response to our Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme this year. We are thrilled to have 145 Year 9 students signed up to the bronze award and 73 Year 10 students signed up to our silver award. These are our highest numbers yet, we are currently one of the largest D of E providers in the city. It was also fantastic to have over 100 parents come to the information evening on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

I was very proud to receive a certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme congratulating us on 2847 hours of volunteering between April 2020 and March 2021, despite the challenges of the pandemic. I am immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement of all the students on our D of E scheme. A big well done as well to Mr Waterhouse and his team!

### **Christmas Dinner**

Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, please be aware that there will not be any other food options on this day (including sandwiches or break time snacks) due to the time it takes to prepare the dinner. Thank you to those of you who have replied to the Forms that went out and have let us know that your child will be having Christmas dinner. It will be a lovely lunch with some festive music and singing no doubt!

### **End of term arrangements**

Term will end this year on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 1.30pm**, the times that students go down to lunch will be slightly altered so that everyone has had lunch before they leave on the final day. Due to the INSET days at the start of term, we return to school on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January**. A testing schedule for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January will be confirmed once we have finalised our arrangements.

Yours faithfully,



Zoe House  
Principal, Lees Brook Community School