

COVID -19 Update from Mr Reynolds, Executive Principal, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Dear Parent/Carer

With the mayhem that has been going on around us recently, I've found the book, 'The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy, good for the soul. I would recommend it. As the author says himself, it is a book for someone who is eight or eighty.

Two of my favourite quotes are: "What do you think success is?" asked the boy. "To love," said the mole.

"What do you think is the biggest waste of time?" ..... "Comparing yourself to others," said the mole.

Kind of makes you reassess what's really important in life.

This has been an extraordinary year. I would like to thank you for your patience and messages of support. We have truly tried to do our best to ensure your child receives a continuous education and is supported whether they are physically in school or at home.

I now turn to practical matters. We have had a number of parents enquiring as to whether we will be moving to remote learning at some point this week? Following the government guidelines, at this moment in time, I can tell you we will remain open for face to face teaching until Friday 3pm. If, as parents or carers, you feel that in order to keep your children and family safe you need to keep your child at home this week, we will continue to offer blended learning opportunities.

### **COVID-19 positive cases guidance from 19 to 24 December**

#### **Following DfE guidance published on the 10 December I'd like to remind you of what to do during the first week of the holiday.**

If your child develops symptoms **FROM** Monday 21 December you should **NOT** contact school – you should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 having developed symptoms on Saturday 19 or Sunday 20 December you should contact the school giving us the following crucial information:

- Name of student
- Year Group
- Date Symptoms began
- Symptoms
- Last Date in School
- Positive Result Date
- Close contact – break and lunch
- Way they travel into school and who with
- Any adults they would class as being in close contact with at school

You should **ONLY** use this link <http://bit.ly/2lQxCKl> to inform us. You should **NOT** contact your child's Year Manager.

We will pick this information up every morning between the 19 to 24 December.

You may receive a text message alerting you of a positive case but it may not affect your child – we would urge you to read the text carefully.

Although Christmas this year will be very different for all of us, I wish you and your families a happy time together and hope that the new year will bring a renewed optimism.

Best wishes

Kevin Reynolds, Executive Principal