



27 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Aiming for the safest possible end to the Autumn Term and start to the Christmas break**

#### **1. New Break and Lunchtime arrangements**

We have all worked very hard together to keep everyone safe at TDMS and the number of C19 positive cases in our school has been remarkably low. However, the risks are ever present and we must continue to look at what additional measures we are able to take. So, in the run up to families wanting to be able to spend time with each other over Christmas, we will be increasing our measures and need your 100% backing with this strategy.

We must do all we can to avoid the children being face to face and within 1m for more than a minute, especially indoors. At present, understandably because it is cold, we just have too many children choosing to remain indoors. Although we do use our Large Hall, our Small Hall, our Gym and our Sports Hall, the children do not have designated seats and we just cannot ensure they are socially distanced at all times, despite our trying to do so. In this situation, there is a risk that, in the event of a confirmed positive case, we would have to send home a lot more children, leading to all those children having to self-isolate for 14 days and that could easily extend across into Christmas.

Therefore, after considerable thought and conversations with our Parent Voice Team, I am writing to advise you of our plans to further reduce risk at both break and lunchtimes, to take effect from **Monday 30 November**.

#### **a. Break-time**

- The children will be expected to go outdoors and get some fresh air
- If the weather is too poor to brave going outside, the children can stay indoors but they must stay in their seating positions from Period 2 (last lesson before break)
- In the event that the children have been unable to go outside for the whole of break, we will then endeavour to provide a short break (assuming the weather has improved) a little later during the morning

#### **b. Lunchtime**

- The children will be expected to go outdoors and get some fresh air
- If the weather is too poor to brave going outside, the children can stay indoors but must stay in their seating positions from Period 4 (last lesson before lunch)
- In the event that the children have been unable to go outside for the whole of break, we will then endeavour to provide a short break (assuming the weather has improved) a little later during the afternoon
- If your child is eating indoors, they must do so at their seating position from Period 4. Other venues will not be available

**To be absolutely clear, at break and lunchtimes, we will not be allowing the children to stay indoors. The only exceptions are: a) children remaining in their classroom seating positions to eat their lunch or b) all children remaining indoors in their classroom seating positions because the weather is awful.**

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

www.tdms.worcs.sch.uk | office@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | Sports Centre: 07881 506156



**EATING and WET LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS from Monday 30 November 2020 until further notice**

Years	Lunchtime venue	Rationale
6-11	Classrooms as per previous lesson or outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Risk of transmission is minimised as proximal contacts are minimised</li><li>• Outdoors is safer than indoors</li></ul>
Sixth Form	Common Room, Private Study, Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A number of the Sixth Form are able to go home at lunchtime, so numbers are sufficiently low to enable Sixth Formers to be able to find somewhere safe and be socially distanced to eat lunch</li></ul>

We do understand for a very small number of children these arrangements may be very challenging and our SEND Team will ensure that we are able to meet the individual needs of these children at this time.

Please note that there are a number of schools, where all children are outdoors at lunchtimes irrespective of whether they are eating or not. Although being outside is not always pleasant as the weather deteriorates, it is a reasonable and measured increase in our protection for the children, their families and our staff just before the crucial Christmas break.

We know families are desperate to be able to spend time with each other and to avoid anyone having to self-isolate.

## 2. Clothing and Detentions

### a. Clothing

- With our requirement and the absolute necessity to ensure ventilation, it is getting increasingly cold
- We again suggest children wear a white T shirt (long sleeved and thermal if possible)
- Please ensure your child wears a warm, comfortable jumper
- Sweatshirts and hoodies (no hoods up in the classrooms) are permissible
- Wearing PE kit when they have PE during that day, means they will need to have jogging bottoms or school leggings to keep them warm
- We strongly suggest students wear gloves, thick enough to keep their hands warm, thin enough to still enable them to write!

### b. Detentions

Fortunately, detention numbers have remained very low and well below last year. This shows how well our children are doing. We really do, however, need your support to ensure detentions are fully eliminated, as we do not want our staff or your children or you, to be exposed to any additional risks. It is important that everyone gets to go home on time.

Mr Sandell, who oversees behaviour, and I have met the parents of a small minority of children, who have been getting too many detentions and disturbing the learning of others. These children have assured us that they will be making an immediate improvement and their parents have assured us of their backing.

Please could you, once again, remind your child of the absolute necessity to behave well at all times.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Stay safe.



Guy Nichols

Reminder: If your child tests positive for Covid-19, please email [testresults@tdms.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:testresults@tdms.worcs.sch.uk) immediately at any time, including weekends.