

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



Four Pools Road, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 1DQ | Telephone: 01386 442060

9 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Last Day of Term

You may be aware that the Government announced yesterday a flexibility for schools to allocate Friday 18th December as a teacher training day. The rationale for this, is to reduce the timeframe needed for possible Covid-19 contact tracing that stretches well into the Christmas break, and the consequent impact on families and school staff. This is a welcome step, and we will therefore be adjusting our end of term plans.

The end of term will now be Thursday 17th December. This will be a normal school day, ending at the normal times with lessons in the morning, and a bit of time, and perhaps some fun, with tutors in the afternoon.

Sadly, many of our normal Christmas end of term traditions are not possible given the current circumstances. However, on the final day, we propose that the children wear non-uniform and, if possible, a Christmas Jumper. The Christmas jumper is, of course, entirely optional, and no one should feel they have to make a special purchase for this day.

Covid-19 Symptoms

We are all familiar with the 3 main symptoms of Coronavirus:

- A high temperature
- A new and continuous cough
- A loss of smell or taste

If your child is exhibiting any of these, they must not attend school and you should arrange a test for them.

Why is the school not running lessons remotely on the last week of term?

We have been asked by some parents, if their child can access remote learning in the last week of term. Whilst this is an entirely sensible request and I did ask for support for this from our local MP, schools have been firmly instructed by Government not to allow this. This is very disappointing, given both the logic of the request and the potential impact on public health.

The Government instruction is clear that all pupils are expected to attend school until the last day of term, unless they have been instructed to isolate as a contact of a positive case or are otherwise unwell.

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

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



However, with the approach of the Christmas holidays, I feel it is worth raising awareness of the “secondary symptoms”, or pre-covid symptoms, of Covid-19.

These are:

- A shortness of breath
- A loss of appetite
- Muscle aches
- A sore throat
- A persistent headache
- Nasal congestion
- Diarrhoea, nausea and/ or vomiting

Clearly, these “secondary symptoms” are often simply a cold or a tummy upset, and we have seen a great many of these during the term that are exactly that and are not coronavirus.

However, we ask that you maintain high vigilance in the next 10 days, and **if you have any doubt at all, please do not send your child to school, and instead book a test.**

In this way, we will prevent any late spread of the virus that would impact on Christmas plans for us all. In many cases, we are now seeing a rapid return of tests, often within 24 hours, so if that response rate continues, the impact on schooling will be minimised.

Thank you for your cooperation with this in order that we can keep our community safe.

During the Holidays.

- **As the last day of school is Thursday 17th December, you will only need to contact the school if your child exhibits any of the 3 main symptoms on either Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December. This is up to Midnight on Saturday 19th December.**
- In this case, please notify us to confirm that you are getting a test. Please use this designated email symptomaticgettingtest@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
- From your notification to us of your child exhibiting symptoms, and whilst you are getting the test and its result, we will identify any proximal contacts that we may then need to alert, should your child’s test result come back as positive. This will help other families find out sooner, should they need to self-isolate
- **Once you get the test result, only notify us, but do this immediately please, using our emergency email testresults@tdms.worcs.sch.uk , if the test comes back as positive**

Please do stay safe over Christmas and here’s to a happier New Year!

Yours sincerely



Guy Nichols