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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to confirm our arrangements for the end of this term and the start of the Spring Term in January.

Friday 17th December 2021 is our last day of term and, as previously communicated, students will be finishing school at 12:20pm.

This day will also be our Christmas Jumper Day and students can wear a festive jumper along with their normal school uniform. To participate in Christmas Jumper Day, we are asking for a voluntary minimum charity donation of £1, which will go towards two different charities; 'Save the Children' and 'Alzheimer's Society'. This can be paid via ParentPay in advance or cash on the day.

As I am sure you will be aware, over the weekend the Government produced information for all schools on new measures, in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures are to be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while the Government gathers more information. To support the government's request that all secondary age pupils undertake one lateral flow test in school before starting the term, we have no option other than to stagger the start of term as follows.

- We will be asking Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 to attend school for testing only on Tuesday 4th January and return to school for normal lessons from Wednesday 5th January 2022.
- Years 8, 9 and 10 are to attend school for testing only on Wednesday 5th January and return to school from Thursday 6th January 2022 for normal lessons.
- The return dates for each year group apply to all students, regardless of whether they attend for testing and in line with government guidance, all students should continue to be using Lateral Flow Tests at home twice weekly; please record the results in the usual way including over the Christmas break.

Consent forms will be sent to parents separately and specific timings for each year group will follow before the end of term. We appreciate these arrangements will impact on parents but the logistics of testing all students in school are significant and we have condensed the testing into as short a time period as possible. I also hope that by sharing these details with you at the earliest opportunity this allows you to plan for possible child-care issues you may have with this staggered start to term in January. I would also like to thank you all for your support with the request that face coverings should again be worn in all communal areas by staff, visitors and students in Year 7 and above.

This was not the letter I had hoped to send out at this stage of the term and I know many of you will be anxious about how this will affect the run in to Christmas and your plans for the festive period with friends and family. Of course, as a school our main job is to educate our students, but my priority must always be the safety and well-being of our school community.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

J Tree

Mr J Tree

Acting Headteacher