

December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We come close to the end of a busy first term. And what a term! It has been a time of change for us personally as we take on the role of interim headteachers and return a school from 'bubbles' to as close to 'normal' as we have been for a long time. Returning our school to its performances, trips, and sense of community has been one of the joys of headship.

So therefore it is with a heavy heart that we had to make the decision to postpone The Norwood Factor performance scheduled for this week and anticipate its rescheduling for the future. You will appreciate that recent news regarding Covid rises is a concern, but we reassure you that we continue to do the best we can to navigate this- alongside the challenges facing schools currently. We will continue to follow guidance from PHE and respond to changes in circumstances as they arise. We thank you for your continued support in this.

We wish to thank all of our staff for their ongoing dedication and work. They have continued to put students at the heart of what they do and have had to work incredibly flexibly in these times of uncertainty. We are sure you appreciate the time and energy they put into their day in order to make Norwood the positive, successful and popular school it is.

We had news this year that we have beaten all previous records in terms of parents wishing to send their child to our school. We have also had other highlights such as a return to performances in dance, drama and music; the success of the Year 9 football team; watching the growth of the Year 11 netball team; becoming Lambeth U14 basketball champions; winning the Lambeth School Garden award; having 6th form students' writing published following our focus on anti-racism and numerous opportunities for PSHE in the curriculum. These are just a few of the highlights - alongside these are all the many positive contributions children and staff make daily. This term we have made efforts to celebrate this through more rewards and recognition opportunities as a way to say thank you and show how proud we are of our school community.

Our arrangements for the end of term and the beginning of next term follow our letter.

We wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday and look forward to 2022.

Best wishes,

Niki Clemenger & Richard Cole

## **End of term arrangements**

### **Own Clothes Day Friday 17th December**

We will be collecting £1 from each child who would like to wear their own clothes on the last day of term. Contributions will go towards Crisis and Shelter, two very worthy causes. We are also aiming to collect £30 from each tutor group in addition to the Own Clothes Day Contribution. This £30 will pay for a hot meal, new underwear, a health check, hot shower and company for someone in need over the Christmas Break. If we manage to collect our target from each tutor group it means that as a school we would be able to contribute towards providing support for just 38 people who find themselves in very challenging circumstances this holiday. As is tradition, we are also collecting for the Brixton and West Norwood Food Bank. All donations gratefully received, should be brought into the atrium and placed on the pink piano.

### **School will be dismissed at 12:40 on Friday 17th December.**

Students will be in normal timetabled lessons P1 - 3 and will then join their form tutors for 'celebrations' P4. There will be a takeaway lunch provided for those who want it from the large canteen.

### **FSM Vouchers**

Those who are entitled will receive vouchers via email for the two week break. Vouchers will be released in two lots of £20.

### **Covid twice weekly testing**

Please ensure your child continues to test twice a week and report the result to the NHS website. With cases rising it is key to helping reduce spread. Remember that some people can be asymptomatic but positive, therefore testing will help pick this up and increase safety of others in the family. If your child tests positive, book a PCR test to confirm and inform the school.

### **Start of Spring Term Arrangements 2022**

**Please see PDF attached**

[Most recent government guidance on Covid 19](#)

Breakfast club will resume on Thursday 6th January.

### **Forthcoming Parents Evenings**

- Thursday January 13th Yr 11
- Thursday 10th February Yr 10
- Thursday 24th February Yr 9 Pathways Evening
- Wednesday 23rd February All Day Careers Event. Yr 7 - 10 finish at lunchtime, Yr 11 and Sixth Form parents are invited into the afternoon activities.