

11 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have all been enjoying the lovely weather this week. It has been wonderful to have our students back with us and enjoy the fabulous weather outside at break and lunch time.

Break & Lunch

Now that Years 11 & 13 have left we will be changing the way that we operate breaks and lunches. Having 5 breaks and 5 lunches has been challenging for the students. Now with over 200 less students in the building we can move to having 2 breaks and 2 lunches. Because we are lucky enough to have large grounds, we are able to do this without crossing over year group bubbles so that we remain Covid secure.

With effect from Monday 14 June Years 7 & 8 will have their break at the same time. They will be located in different parts of the school grounds to ensure that they remain separate from one another. This will be repeated at lunchtime. Year 7 will come into lunch first and occupy Year 7 tables in the dinner hall. Once Year 7 have been through Year 8 will be allowed in and then sit at the designated Year 8 tables. All tables are sanitised between year groups anyway and antiseptic wipes and hand sanitiser are always available in all rooms including the dinner hall. Each year group will again occupy a different place in the grounds when outside, in order for them to be kept separate during the lunch break. The same arrangements will be in place for Years 9 & 10 during their lunch time.

The John Willmott School risk management plan has been updated to reflect this new arrangement and can be found on the school website alongside the ATLP risk management plans.

We continue to operate with additional cleaning throughout the day to ensure that touch points and toilets are regularly cleaned. It remains vital that students continue to wash their hands regularly, use hand sanitiser and follow the one way system.

A large number of students continue to try and use the buses without face masks. As mentioned in last weeks letter, masks and face coverings are required to travel on public transport including school buses. From Monday 14 June we will no longer be providing face masks for students, therefore students without a face covering may be unable to board the buses at the end of the day. Drivers are able to refuse anyone who is not wearing a face mask. Could you please ensure that your child understands this and comes to school with a face mask if they wish to travel home by bus.

Pastoral support

Our transition programme is underway for our Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. This brings with it some internal changes for our current students.

Mr Daley & Ms McDermott will be saying goodbye to our current Year 7 as they begin to work with Year 6 in preparation for them joining us next academic year. As a result, Mr Young will be moving to become Head of Year 7 and to take them through into Year 8 next year and beyond. Mr Young is an experienced Head of Year and is looking forward to introducing himself to his new year group and their parents next week.

Miss Noreen will be moving to be Head of Year 10 and take them through into Year 11 ready for their GCSE's. Miss Noreen has guided our current Year 11s through this year and she will be meeting her new year group today to set out her expectations and vision for their success in Summer 2022.

All other year groups will be remaining with their current Head of Year.

Covid-19 update

As mentioned in last weeks letter it is important that students continue to follow Covid safe practices, complete twice weekly lateral flow tests and report their results on the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and on the school website <https://johnwillmottschool.co.uk/student-lft-result-notification-form/>. This regular testing is part of our in school measures to keep everybody as safe as possible. Testing kits can be obtained from a variety of testing centres across Erdington and Sutton Coldfield if students are not eligible for receiving a testing kit from school.

Although attendance to school is mandatory, students must not attend school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus symptoms.
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the common travel area.
- they have had a positive test.
- they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

Students must not attend school and self-isolate for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms.
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (Lateral flow or PCR).
- the day they had close contact with a person who has tested positive.

As always, all periods of absence should be reported to school **as soon as possible** with a clear reason for the absence to attendance@jws.bham.sch.uk.

It is particularly important that any COVID-19 related reasons for absence are communicated with school immediately as there may be implications for other close contacts of your child in school.

Further details on staying at home/self-isolation can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.

The symptoms are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Contact details

If you have recently moved house or changed your phone number please email enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk to update your details. It is vital that we have up to date contact details in case of emergencies.

Detention reminder

Please remember that we will be restarting our after school detentions next week details were included in last weeks letter. We will be operating a covid safe detention system, students can be set a 30 minute after school detention for persistent breaches of the school's uniform and behaviour policies. As a courtesy we will give parents 24 hours notice of any detention set by text message in case you need to make alternative travel arrangements for your child. Failure to complete the 30 minute detention will result in a longer reset detention of 45 minutes with 24 hours notice. It is obviously our preference that students do not receive such detentions and we ask for your support in ensuring that our students comply with our high expectations of uniform, punctuality and behaviour.

Remote Learning

There are weekly quizzes uploaded to Satchel:One along with our Knowledge Organisers and Satchel:One can be accessed through any device (laptop, ipad, tablet or smart phone). Please find below a link to a video that explains how to navigate using Satchel:One <https://johnwillmottschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Show-My-Homework-2021-1.mp4>.

As a reminder your child's email address is also their Satchel:One login, this password is the same password for their email account. We also have a tab on our website that will take them to the login page.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Peters
Headteacher