

SJB/JRu  
December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Well what a term... what a year! I don't want to go over past events as there are too many to mention, but I would like to thank you once again for your continued support with everything that has been changed, modified, remodified and put in place for the safety of all during these very strange times. We couldn't have done this without you.

Arrangements for the final week of term will be slightly different this year as we add a few more changes to ensure everyone stays safe. I know how worried people are about the possibility of having to isolate over Christmas so we have modified our groups and lessons to have the least amount of student movement possible. It is important that lessons continue and we will be teaching throughout the week.

The arrangements for last week are as follows:

**Monday and Tuesday:**

- Lessons as normal. KS3 students will have all their lessons with their tutor group and KS4 students are having their movement minimised.

**Wednesday:**

- Normal lessons.
- Christmas lunch for Years 7, 9 and 11.

**Thursday:**

- PSHE curriculum catch up. Tutor groups will have an intensive day to go over important content that was missed during lockdown (taught by tutors in each year group).
- Christmas lunch for Years 8 and 10.
- Christmas jumpers can be worn.

**Friday:**

- P1 PSHE final lesson.
- P2 KS3 will watch an online Panto. KS4 will be watching a Christmas movie.
- P3 – Christmas Assembly (virtual). Including our House awards for both KS3 and KS4, as well as our legendary House 'sing-off'.
- School will finish at 12 noon and buses will depart from school at this time. Students will leave the site a year group at a time. Please note that arrangements for the Stagecoach/Huntley service bus were published on 8 December.
- Christmas jumpers can be worn.

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### **Food Bank and Christmas Jumpers**

We will, once again, be giving the students the opportunity to come to school in Christmas jumpers on the last days (Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December) and we will be asking for voluntary donations of food for the local food bank, which are needed even more this year, rather than money for charity. To allow this to happen, one of the school minibuses will be parked outside the reception entrance for the week, from 14 December, for students to drop off any donations. The minibus will be emptied each day and the donations taken to the local food bank for this very worthy cause. Any donations of tinned/packet foods, toiletries and soft beverages would be very gratefully received. Please do not donate fresh milk or any perishable goods.

### **Staffing Update**

We are delighted to have welcomed Mr Adam Hurrell to our team as a Geography teacher to cover Mrs Bingham's maternity leave. We would also like to say thank you to Miss Owen who has been on a short term contract in the English department and Mrs Kate Reynolds (Teaching Assistant). We wish them all the best.

### **Covid and Christmas**

We obviously hope that no one is affected, but should your son/daughter receive a positive result over the Christmas break, please follow the instructions attached to this letter. Remember to keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages in case there are any Covid updates during the holiday and please update reception ([reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk)) if you change your contact number or email address.

On behalf of the staff, governors and students, I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing all students back in school and ready to learn on **Tuesday 5 January 2021\*** (please note that Monday 4 January is an Inset Day). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, again, for your continued support in all that we do at Dene Magna.

Stay safe and have a fabulous break.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Brady  
Headteacher

\* Students return to Week B.

## What to do if your daughter/son develops Coronavirus symptoms once the school is closed for the Christmas break.

Please follow these steps should your daughter/son get symptoms of Covid during the Christmas break:

<p>Symptoms started <b>WITHIN 48 hours of leaving school</b> on 18 December.</p> <p>I.e. symptoms start on Friday 18, Saturday 19 or Sunday 20 December. Get a test and let us know.</p>	<p>If a student tests positive for Covid 19, having developed symptoms <u>within</u> 48 hours of being in school, please contact the school on <b>covid@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk</b> who will then identify those who were in close contact with the student concerned and advise parents/carers/students to self-isolate as appropriate.</p>
<p>Symptoms developed <b>more than 48 hours after</b> school has finished on 18 December.</p> <p>I.e symptoms start on or after Monday 21 December. Get a test and let Track and Trace know.</p>	<p>If your child tests positive for Covid 19 having developed these symptoms more than 48 hours <u>after</u> being in school, the school should <b>NOT</b> be contacted. Parents/carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.</p>

Please keep us informed of any positive results and should your son/daughter be showing any Covid symptoms on Tuesday 5 January, please call our absence line for advice before sending your child back to school.

*Thank you for your support.*