



18th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Autumn Term 2021

As Christmas approaches I wanted to make you aware of the arrangements for the end of this term. These are;

- Last day: Wednesday 22nd December 2021
- First day back: Monday 10th January 2022

Arrangements for Wednesday 22nd December:

On the last day school will finish at an earlier time. There will be an earlier lunch period from 12.20-12.40pm to allow any pupils who need a school meal to have one. Pupils will be dismissed between 12.40-1.00pm. If these arrangements present you with any issues, please contact the school through the usual channels.

On the last day we will have a non-uniform Christmas Jumper day with all proceeds from this going to Save the Children. We are, therefore, asking students to wear a Christmas Jumper/non-uniform and to donate £1 on entry into the school on the day. There will be staff collecting the donations by the main school gates.

Please be aware that all non-uniform clothing should still be appropriate and acceptable for the school day, and that normal rules regarding jewellery still apply as timetabled lessons will still be taught.

On our return on the 10th January there will be onsite testing. This will involve those pupils for whom we have received permissions and will be completed during an extended tutor period from 8.30am-10.45am.

Beyond these arrangements I would, as always, like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given the school over what has been, another very challenging term. At times we have had teaching staff absence running at 20% with no supply staff available as a result of all schools being in the same situation. Staff and pupils at the school have risen to this challenge admirably and in a way that reflects very positively on us all as a learning community. Through the precautions we have put in place we have weathered the storm better than many and this is reflected in a pupil attendance that has been consistently above national average. I have been very clear, since arriving as Head Teacher, that the success of the school is based on a collective team approach amongst staff, pupils and parents. I very much feel, as I hope you do too, that this is exactly what is reflected in how we have responded over the last term.

As part of our ongoing attempts to minimise the threat from Covid-19 the school will continue to expect pupils to bring and wear masks, unless they are exempt. We also continue to request regular testing. Your support on these matters is very much appreciated.

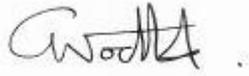
Looking ahead to our return I would like to make you aware that Mr Taylor, who joined us as a temporary Senior Leader in September, is returning to his substantive role within The Two Counties Trust. His role will, going forward, be assumed by Mr Hashim, who has been with us since November.



On our return I also intend to involve pupils and parents in consultation around two areas. Firstly, building on the work we did on school values at the end of the last academic year, there will be the opportunity for pupils, parents and staff to contribute on what The Two Counties Trust values of Ambition, Teamwork and Honesty mean at Frederick Gent School. The second area for consultation will be around catering. I am keen for parents and pupils to have the opportunity to speak directly with our catering suppliers and will be arranging focus group events in the New Year for this to take place. This work will be co-ordinated through our Pastoral Teams.

To finish I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Christmas. I also want to wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2022

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Woollard', followed by a period.

C Woollard (Mr)
Head of school