

7th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

The school has had a very successful term. Thank you for all the continuing support you provide for your children in their learning and helping us to ensure they enjoy and achieve.

It has been a very busy term and for me the real highlight is the sheer number of parents that have attended the school. Our busiest Open Evening the School has ever held and to all of you that attended Progress Day way back in September. It was a real pleasure to host so many of you for our Annual Awards Evening and our Wexham's Got Talent event. The School now has the highest number of students in its history and we are now the third largest school in Slough.

Last Day of Term / Start of New Term

Friday 15th December is the last day of the Autumn Term. The School will operate its customary compact day and will close at 1pm. The School will reopen to all students on Thursday 4th January 2023 at the normal time.

Free School Meals

The government has provided additional funding to local authorities to support students on Free School Meals over the holidays. This will follow the same format as previous vouchers and will be emailed to those parents it concerns.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

A reminder that it is Year 11 Parents' Evening is Tuesday 12th December.

Non-Uniform Day

The school will be holding a non-uniform day on Wednesday 13th December. Proceeds will be split between Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Appeal and ICRC (International Red Cross and Red Crescent) appeal for humanitarian aid in Gaza. Students wishing to take part and wear non uniform to school must bring £1. There is of course no charge for students attending in full school uniform.

Mobile Phones

As you may be aware the government is encouraging schools to have outright bans on mobile phones. This is a contentious issue and is not compulsory at this stage. As we are an expanding school, we have employed many new teachers that have come from other schools, some which have an outright ban on mobile phones. They report that they are far less disruptive at Wexham than in their previous schools. There is no easy solution to this, but I would encourage all parents discuss phone usage with their children at regular intervals. Well done to most students who never let their phone disrupt.

We have a very clear policy on the use of mobile phone. Mobile Phones can be brought to school in order to support student's safety on the way to and from school. However, they **MUST NEVER** disrupt a lesson and should never be seen in lessons. Mobile phones can be used sensibly at break and lunchtimes, BUT NOT between lessons. HEADPHONES cannot be used in school and therefore should not be seen. This is for Health and Safety reasons.

Mobile phones and headphones will be confiscated if the above is not followed and a parent/carer will need to collect them from reception, no exception. From January the school will hold mobile phones until the next school day. If your child's phone is confiscated on a Monday the earliest it can be collected is on Tuesday, if it is confiscated on a Friday then it will be retained over the weekend and can be collected on Monday. I am aware this may prove unpopular, simply make sure your child uses their phone responsibly and there will be no issue. This of course only affects a very small number of children and will mean our policy is even stronger.

Buses

I am aware that changes to the recent timetables for some of our local bus routes have not been helpful. I work very closely with the local authority and we have been trying for some time, with very limited success, in improving bus links to the school. A parent recently Cc the school in an email they wrote to the bus company. I thought this was really helpful and if more parents could find the time to contact the bus companies directly, I feel that it could help. So please if you have a few spare minutes do write to them as well.

Emergency Closure

A reminder of our emergency closure procedure.

- The decision to close the school outside of core hours will be taken by 7.30am after an assessment of poor weather conditions or on the advice of Slough Borough Council or the emergency services. We will always aim to contact parents by text message as early as possible; normally this would be by 7.45am, before students leave for school. Messages will also be displayed on the school website.
- Should the school be forced to close during the day, or your child has arrived on school premises in the morning, you will be contacted before we send student's home.
- Further text messages and our website will update parents of our situation. For this reason, it is always vital that the school has up to date contact details.

Thank you for your continuing support and I wish everyone a happy and restful holiday period.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Term and Important Dates 2023 – 2024

	Friday 15 th December 2023	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm.
	Monday 18 th December 2023 to Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	Christmas Holiday
Spring Term	Wednesday 3 rd January 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Thursday 4 th January 2024	First Day of Term. All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 11 th January 2024	Years 12 and 13 Parents' Evening
	Tuesday 6 th February 2024	Year 8 Parents' Evening
	Friday 9 th February 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 19 th February 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 29 th February 2024	Year 10 Parents' Evening
	Tuesday 12 th March 2024	Year 9 Parents' Evening
	Thursday 28 th March 2024	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm.
	Friday 29 th March to Friday 12 th April 2024	Easter Holiday
Summer Term	Monday 15 th April 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Tuesday 16 th April 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 25 th April 2024	Year 7 Parents' Evening
	Monday 6 th May 2024	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Friday 24 th May 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 3 rd June 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 25 th July 2024	Last Day of Term for students. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm.