



The Priory School

Headteacher: A Pope BA (Hons) PGCE MA
Longden Road, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY3 9EE

01743 284000
info@tpstrust.co.uk
www.tpstrust.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Coming to the end of our longest term I wanted to write to you to thank you, as always for your support through a continued period of change as well as give you some important updates. We are currently still operating under our Covid measures and plan to keep these in place when students return in January. This includes the wearing of facemasks, PE kit on the day they have PE, staggered lunches as well as virtual assemblies and no large events on site. We will continue to review this on a weekly basis and keep you updated with any changes which may arrive at the end of the Christmas break.

End of term festivities and arrangements.

We have a number of Christmas events running over our final weeks. Friday was charity Christmas Jumper day, which seemed to include a fair amount of tinsel and reindeer antlers too. The Drama and Music departments, ably assisted by a number of students, are preparing for our virtual Christmas concert which will include a festive staff performance. PE are beginning to marshal students on their epic 12K of Christmas with the final laps of the local area being run this week. Students who have opted for a Christmas Dinner will have this served on Thursday 16th December in the school dining room. Please remember this will be the only hot food offer on the day, so students who do not want one should bring a packed lunch. **This will all culminate with our early finish at 1pm on Friday 17th December.**

Reporting absences and attendance

A reminder that full attendance of all students when they are fit and well is still expected and students should only be accessing work at home if they have to self-isolate.

Please may I remind you to notify the school as early as possible on the day your child is absent **for any illness**. For any absence that is not COVID-19 related, please ensure you notify the school each and every day your child is absent. A text will be sent home notifying you of your child's absence if we do not hear from you in advance. This can be done via voicemail to the main school office or attend@tpstrust.co.uk.

ClassCharts has been up and running since the start of term, as well as many other useful features it has an excellent attendance function that allows you to see your child's live punctuality and attendance record. If you have not already logged on and are having difficulty please contact us at info@tpstrust.co.uk, we do need all parents to be accessing this before we can roll out further features.

Covid and testing

If your child has any Covid related symptoms then please arrange a PCR. These could be precautionary symptoms such as headache and sore throat as well as the main symptoms of cough, high temperature and loss of sense of smell and taste. If they are symptomatic they should stay at home and wait for the PCR result. If they are a close contact but not symptomatic they should take a

PCR but can return to school. If someone is positive in the household we would request that they should take a PCR but remain at home whilst awaiting the result. Our case numbers are much lower this half term and we thank you for your support with this.

Voluntary, lateral flow testing has been offered to families, on site, in January. We have therefore had to schedule these into the first day back. However, as only one test needs to be taken before students return and in an effort to have them into lessons as quickly as possible we have been able to timetable this into the first morning back, see the timetable below. **All students should attend registration at 10.55am on Tuesday 4th January for a full return at 11am.**

8.30am	Year 9
8.45am	Year 8
9.05am	Year 7
9.20am	Year 10
9.40am	Year 11

Current government advice is recommending continued LFT tests, on a twice weekly basis but more regularly if students are going to be in a more crowded environment, over the Christmas period.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a very rested, happy (Covid free) festive period.

Best wishes as always



Mrs A Pope
Headteacher