

New Siblands Primary
Gillingstool
Thornbury
South Gloucestershire
BS35 2EG
Tel. 01454 866754



Valuing every child through fostering independence,
inclusion, trust, respect and support

New Siblands Secondary
Easton Hill Road
Thornbury
South Gloucestershire
BS35 2JU
Tel. 01454 862888

Headteacher: Ms Carrie Osmond

Friday, 17th December

RE: Christmas Holidays / COVID

Dear Parents and Carers,

As 2021 draws to a close, I wanted to write to you all with an update on what is happening at school. Despite the challenges we have faced, we continue to have happy news and successes to celebrate. Our pupils show so much enjoyment of their learning and I hear from many of you that this is evident at home. I hope you have been able to enjoy some videos of our Christmas celebrations at home. Our dedicated and skilled staff team deserve appreciation for their creativity and commitment to each and every pupil, and I know you will join me in thanking them all.

Many of you will be aware of the ongoing impact of the pandemic on our operations, particularly in terms of ensuring we have safe levels of staffing in school. For some of your children, this has meant additional days at home. This is always a last resort, but has become more frequent than we would like. Thanks for your patience and understanding when this has occurred. Recruitment drives to improve the numbers of bank staff we have available to us, have been fruitful, and this should alleviate the situation from January.

Of course, COVID is far from over. We hope that there will be no additional disruptions to school in the New Year. We have maintained a very strong culture of safety, even as restrictions were relaxed. While this does mean some activities have had to be reduced, overall it has supported us to keep on with 'business as usual' for the majority of the time. We have not needed to make any additional changes to our safety measures in the light of new government advice, and hope this will remain the case. We will continually review the situation over the Christmas period. Should there be any unexpected changes to school operations we will contact you in January using the texting system initially. At present, we are expecting term to start on **Thursday 6th January**.

You can support us to protect our vulnerable pupils by keeping your child at home if they are unwell, especially if they have the potential symptoms of COVID: a new persistent cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste or smell. If your child tolerates lateral flow testing, please also continue to do regular tests.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a peaceful, safe and very happy Christmas.

A member of



DfE School Number 803/7031
enquiries@newsiblands.org.uk
www.newsiblands.org.uk



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Yours sincerely,

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