

Friday 27 November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Coronavirus

- For information we have had no further student cases resulting in the need for other students to self-isolate since half term. This is a very fortunate position but one that could change any day. In total we have had 10 students and 3 staff test positive so far since September.
- We do need to maintain good ventilation in rooms which demands keeping windows open even though the weather is getting colder. Please remember that a plain black jumper is an optional uniform item but it may well be worth having over the winter months.
- Please do not send any children into school who are displaying symptoms or where anyone in the home is displaying symptoms. They must remain at home until the symptomatic person has had a test. Obviously if the test is positive the self-isolation continues.

Preparation for Christmas

There has never been a more important time for us as a school community to pull together to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We are therefore asking our students, parents and staff to support the **Salvation Army** this Christmas. We will be collecting food items, toiletries and unwanted clothing plus **new** toys, games and gifts so that children who wouldn't otherwise receive a present on Christmas Day can have something new to open.

We will also be holding two 'Festive Finery Fridays' on Friday 11th December and Friday 18th December – students will be permitted to wear one item of Christmas clothing (jumper, hat etc.) in exchange for a £1 donation.

Suggested items for the food/clothing collection:

- Tinned food
- Packets of food (such as pasta, rice and cereal)
- Toiletries
- Scarfs
- Hats and gloves

Suggested items for the **new** toys/games and gifts (new items only please as the idea is that children have their own, new gift to open):

- **0-3 years:** dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles;
- **3-5:** dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs, and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles;
- **5-9:** educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords;

- **9-12:** games and toys, stationery, DVDs, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats;
- **13-16:** books, make-up, and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers.

Donations should be dropped off with students' Year Leaders in their offices by Friday 11th December (Year 9 should drop them off at Mr Morton's office) Thank you so much for your help in supporting this worthwhile cause.

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

For implementation in 2020-21, the Department for Education has changed its expectations regarding the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education. The development of a new policy expects parental input and parents/carers also need to be reminded of their right to withdraw a child from sex education. The school Governors recently considered a proposed RSE Policy and reviewed the content in our PSHE curriculum. I attach that policy for your consideration and if you have any comments to make on the policy I would ask that you email me at head@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk by December 7th.

Year 11

Last week year 11 sat mock exams in Maths, English and Science. It will not be too long before they sit a larger set of mock exams in all subjects apart from Maths. These exams begin on January 13th. Some students will also have public exams if they are studying Health and Social Care. Please do encourage Year 11 to be planning for and revising for these exams from now and not to leave revision till the last minute.

In the absence of a Parents Evening we did send out more detailed reports and I hope you found these useful in having conversations with your sons and daughters.

Parents Evenings next term

Next term we are due to have Parents Evenings for Years 10, 9 and 8 as well as the options process for Year 8. As the pandemic continues we are not going to be able to have Parents Evenings in the normal way and will send out more detailed reports followed by telephone conversations where necessary. These reports do take longer to prepare and so the dates for information to parents will change:

Year	Original date for Parents Evening	New date for sending out report information
9	14 th January	28 th January
10	28 th January	11 th February
8	4 th March	11 th March

Cyclists and road safety

We do not have a large number of students who come to school by bike but I do worry that those who do are not wearing cycle helmets as they should. I have also had a couple of reports from members of the public regarding what can only be called dangerous behaviour when riding bikes to and from school. Students do need to be aware of their own safety and that of others if riding a bike to school.

Synergy

All parents and carers should now have received the log in details for Synergy. Please do contact school if you have not received these. As I have previously said, by logging on to Synergy you can see your son/daughter's daily record and particularly the lesson grades – please remember we are looking for grades 4 (expected) and 5 (outstanding). Anything less means that a student is not behaving in a way to enhance their learning. It has been lovely to be able to write home to parents in recent days to congratulate their sons and daughters on achieving 5 grade 5s in a day.

With best wishes

Andrew Waller
Headteacher