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## Update for Olympus Parents and Carers – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank you for your support through what has felt like a very long term. My colleagues and I have been very impressed with the way in which learners have adapted to the changes to arrangements in our schools and the way that many of them have taken periods of self-isolation and remote learning in their stride. We know that it is not always easy to have children based at home during the day, whether or not they needed direct supervision to complete their schoolwork. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and healthy break and all best wishes for the New Year – we hope that things may start to ease in the first part of 2021 as the vaccine becomes available to more people, although we recognise that January could still be challenging. I have provided information about rapid testing for Covid-19 in schools further on in this update.

### End of Term Arrangements

As notified last week, term 2 ends for all learners at the usual time on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December. Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December is now a staff training day. We know that there were mixed views amongst Olympus parents and carers as well as staff about whether schools should have been providing remote learning or operating as normal this week and hope that you also recognise the constraints placed on us by Government regulations. On balance, we felt that bringing forward the end of term by a day when permitted to do so would slightly reduce the risk of infection and self-isolation during the school holiday. We apologise to any families for whom this has created a difficulty.

### Contact for Covid-19 Cases during the School Holidays

The Department for Education have set an expectation that we (schools and Trust) need to be available to follow up positive Covid-19 cases until Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Therefore, please note the following:

- You should only get in touch with your child's school if:
  - your child develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (i.e. Friday or Saturday); and
  - they receive a positive test result up to and including Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

In all other situations over the holidays, parents and carers should get in touch directly with NHS Test and Trace.

We recognise that contact from school after term ends with an instruction to self-isolate is likely to disrupt your plans and cause frustration and disappointment. Please bear in mind that the member of staff contacting you is only doing their job, in line with Government guidance, and may well be working during their holiday. Therefore, please treat them with the courtesy that they deserve.

### School Holiday Support for Families eligible for income-based Free School Meals

As mentioned in the last update, we are providing a top-up of £10 per eligible child, per week during the school holiday. This will be made in a single payment of £20 per eligible child. Some payments will be paid into bank accounts on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and the remainder will be made next week before 23<sup>rd</sup> December. The £15 per eligible child, per week vouchers provided by South Gloucestershire Council will be e-mailed to you in the next week as the codes have now been sent to schools to distribute. If you requested a paper copy of the voucher, you will need to arrange to collect from your child's school on Friday please.

We are continuing to provide term-time vouchers for meals for eligible children who have to self-isolate, following closure of bubbles or positive cases in families.

### Rapid Testing in Secondary Schools

The Government has announced this week that mass rapid testing is to be available to all schools in January, starting with secondary. The details are not yet fully available so we anticipate being in touch on 4<sup>th</sup> January if there are any arrangements to apply from 5<sup>th</sup> January. Our understanding is that the test provides a result in 30 minutes. This will enable us to have a different approach to



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dealing with positive Covid-19 cases and the need for close contacts to self-isolate which will be less disruptive for learning. We believe that this is a positive step forward for our communities. Anyone unwilling to engage with testing will have to self-isolate, as now, if symptomatic or in contact with positive cases. We will provide further details as they become available but you might like to read this related [DfE blog for parents](#) in the meantime:

### Tragic News in our Community

You are probably aware that Luke Wheaton, a former student at Bradley Stoke Community School, was one of four people who lost their lives in the tragic accident at Avonmouth 2 weeks ago. The school community was devastated by the news and has been coming to terms with the tragic loss of such a lovely young man with his whole future ahead of him. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of all of the people who lost their lives, but particularly to Luke's. Discussions have started with Luke's family and Wessex Water, where Luke was working as an apprentice at the time of his death, about creating a fitting, long-term tribute and legacy to celebrate Luke's life.

### (Primary) All Stars Out of School Club Arrangements

Thank you to those who completed the survey we sent regarding potential usage of the breakfast and after school club for the remainder of the school year. Numbers have declined in recent months and it is becoming increasingly difficult to run with such small numbers in some schools. We will be sending out further communication about some temporary adjustments we are considering due to these changes of usage by families. Please be aware that we are doing all we can to ensure that continuity of care from the All Stars Out of School Club but it can only run if families want to use it.

### Term Dates and INSET Days until the end of Term 3 2020-21

Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Term 2 ends for all learners
Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Staff training day – no school for learners
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff training day – no school for learners
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Term 3 begins at the usual time for all Olympus learners
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Term 3 ends for learners
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff training day – no school for learners

Please note there are no further planned changes to our published term dates for the remainder of the academic year.

### Term Dates and INSET Days for 2021-22

The term dates for 2021-22 for all Olympus schools are as follows:

Term 1	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Term 2	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Term 3	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Term 4	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Term 5	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May* 2022
Term 6	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022

(\*Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022 will be an INSET day but students in Y10-13 will need to attend school if they have public exams scheduled on that day)

Olympus trustees have agreed to 8 training days again next year. They recognised that it is currently not possible to release school staff to train during the school day because of the uncertainties created by the pandemic. They also recognised that we were unable to take a number of the planned training days in 2019-20 because of lockdown and the need for key worker children provision. We still need opportunities for staff to train if we are to continue to see improvement in our schools so the following dates will be staff training days in 2021-22:

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022



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### Staff Farewells

We would like to say thank you, farewell and good luck to the following staff who will be leaving at the end of term:

Catherine Geary (Teacher), Abbeywood Community School  
 Alexandra Goncalves Bras (Teaching Assistant), Charborough Road Primary School  
 Ian Henry (Assistant Head), Abbeywood Community School  
 Rob Penhale (Second in PE), Winterbourne Academy  
 Agnieszka Piskorowska-Bebb (Teaching Assistant), Abbeywood Community School  
 Jen Rice (Cover Supervisor), Winterbourne Academy  
 Carolyn Tipler (Assistant Headteacher), Abbeywood Community School  
 Josh Whiddon (Head of Mathematics), Winterbourne Academy

Michelle Lang (Subject Leader: Art) and Katie Ford (Pastoral Admin), both at Abbeywood Community School and Kanisha Sterling (PE Teacher), Patchway Community School, are going on maternity leave – we wish them all good luck!

Good luck also to the following senior colleagues who are moving to new posts within the Trust from the start of term 3:

Matt Lankester – Headteacher at Charborough Road Primary School  
 Sara Malik – Deputy Headteacher at Filton Hill Primary School  
 Laura Walker – Deputy Headteacher at Meadowbrook Primary School

### Open Events for Olympus Primary Schools

Please see below a list of the final virtual open events at Olympus primary schools. The application deadline for a place in Reception for September 2021 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please look on the school websites for further details. Applications should be made via the link [here](#).

Callicroft Primary Academy	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January at 2:00 p.m.
Charborough Road Primary School	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January at 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Filton Hill Primary School	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January at 2:00 p.m. Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January at 10:00 a.m.
Meadowbrook Primary School	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January at 2:00 p.m.
Stoke Lodge Primary School	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> January at 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

### Guidance Links

The latest guidance for parents and carers from the Department for Education can be found [here](#).

The latest NHS guidance can be found [here](#).

Information on how to get tested can be found [here](#).

Guidance for Tier 3 can be found [here](#).

Letter from the Director of Public Health and the Director for Children, Adults and Health, South Gloucestershire Council for parents and carers can be found [here](#).

With very best wishes,

Dave Baker  
 Chief Executive Officer  
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*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



Thanks to the students of Stoke Lodge Primary School for this photo

*from staff and students at the Olympus Academy Trust*