

17 December 2020

Dear Parents,

Last weekend my wife and I started our Christmas wrapping. We envisioned that we would be doing this merry task, listening to carols, enjoying a drink whilst the kids watched Home Alone. The reality was an exhausting four hours, realising we only had one pair of scissors, very limited sellotape and wrapping paper that seemed to disintegrate by just looking at it. Also, being from a large family, many aunts and uncles had sent presents via our most regular visitor to the house - Mr Amazon - and these then had to be wrapped too! Home Alone was clearly not doing the trick; every few minutes we'd hear a bang and then crying, followed moments later by a stomp up the stairs. They would then be met by their festive mother and father who simply bellowed, "you're not allowed up here, get back downstairs!" My mother and father had five of us kids, I see why our presents were always wrapped in foil!

This time tomorrow the Christmas Holidays will have begun. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, I hope you all have some much needed and deserved rest and enjoy time with your loved ones. We have come a long way since March 23 when the first lockdown began. When faced with challenges it can often lead to communities coming together to support each other. The dedication demonstrated by the pupils and the staff has been extraordinary. This has only been possible with the support of the parent body. Your regular emails of feedback and thanks are gratefully received by staff.

Finding time to pass on thanks can have a significant impact. Just this evening I saw a colleague popping homemade Christmas cards into staff pigeon holes. She informed me that her classes had designed and written their own cards to the staff who had really supported them this term. A really lovely gesture which I know will give those staff a real lift as they head into the last few days of term. That is assuming they have the energy to get to their pigeon holes! We are fortunate to have parents who are supportive but for staff to receive such a personal gift from a pupil is very special (it didn't even require wrapping!).

Carol Service

Over the course of the last week, the school's young enterprise team, Shoutout, have been working hard filming our Christmas message. It is a shame we could not run our usual Carol Concert but [please click here](#) to see the wonderful choir and a number of messages and readings.

Reading time

This year there has been a great interest from the pupil body to celebrate many areas of school. Just this week we have witnessed the publication of the first RGS Newspaper and the RGS MADE (Music, Art, Drama and English) Magazine. They are both super reads if you have a few moments to spare over the break. These will be shared with all parents today.

iPads

Once again, our apologies for being unable to deliver iPads before Christmas for our Year 7s and new starters. It is not for want of trying, but this is little comfort for boys approaching a two-week Christmas break. Also, for parents who bought an iPad through the School scheme, [please click here](#) for a reminder of the insurance details offered by the School. The Zag keyboards are not covered by our insurance policy, so please ask your sons to continue to treat them with care; the keyboards are covered by a one-year warranty only.

Testing

Many of you will be aware of the government announcement this week to introduce mass Covid testing into schools this January. The aim is to ensure that pupils are receiving as much face to face education as possible. We will share more details with you in the New Year.

Stranger concern

Sadly, we have had notification from ESAS (Education Safeguarding Advisory Service) at County Hall of another concerning incident in the Wycombe area; this time of a male following 2 secondary school students in an intimidating manner. Once again please could you speak to your sons, whether young or older, about potential stranger risks. You may wish to mention:

- Never getting into a stranger's car or going anywhere with a stranger even if they have what sounds a plausible story e.g. I have been sent to collect you as there has been an accident and your parents are involved;
- Keeping at least an arm's distance from a stranger who has stopped a young person to ask them something;
- If there are concerns about a stranger, or if a young person believes they are being followed, they should seek assistance from a member of the public and contact the police;
- Finally, it is always good to report a crime as soon as possible to the police, and to report all instances of concern to an adult and the school.

Covid Procedures during the Christmas break

Please scroll to the bottom of the page for this information.

I hope during this break, we can enjoy the rest and each other's company. I hope your sons provide great company, entertainment and maybe even some help around the house!

We look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

With kind regards

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster

COVID-19 Procedures & Protocols for the Christmas Break

Friday 18	Saturday 19	Sunday 20	Monday 21	Tuesday 22	Wednesday 23	Thursday 24	Friday 25	Saturday 26	Sunday 27	Monday 28	Tuesday 29	Wednesday 30	Thursday 31	Friday 1 Jan	Saturday 2	Sunday 3	Monday 4
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In all cases of a positive test result over the holiday period, we ask that parents inform the School using attendance@rgshw.com

From Friday 18 to Wednesday 23 the School will, in line with DfE Guidance, operate a Test and Trace process. Parents should therefore commit to checking their school contact email address once a day, up to and including Wednesday 23 in case of notification of contact of their son with a positive case on Thursday 17 or Friday 18.

Please do practice caution in sending your sons to School in the last few days of term; if they are exhibiting any of the three symptoms listed to the left or any flu symptoms, we ask that you keep your son at home. let attendance@rgshw.com know, and ask your son to access the online teaching resources. This is to minimise disruption to other families over the Christmas period.

We wish you all a very relaxing Christmas Break, and look forward to welcoming your sons back to School on **Monday 4 January**.

If your child has:

- a high temperature

OR

- a new and persistent cough

OR

- a loss of taste or sense of smell

Book a test immediately using this [Online Form](#) or ring 119

Child and household isolate until test result received

A positive test result:

- Inform the school immediately- attendance@rgshw.com
- Child isolates for 10 days from first date of symptoms
- Other household members isolate for 10 days

A negative test result:

Isolation can stop immediately. Child returns to school after Christmas, if better.