

6th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write a brief letter this week to say - Happy New Year to everyone and a warm welcome back to Spring term 2023!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and are refreshed and ready for the term ahead. I also hope you enjoyed reading our bumper end of term newsletter sent out just before we broke up. It really emphasised the amount of support and opportunities that our school provides beyond the classroom.

It is a little unfortunate that our return to school has been made slightly more tricky for some with the train and bus strikes. This of course has had an impact on the amount of traffic at busy times. Whilst there remains some uncertainty how long these will carry on for, we would ask that if your child's journey has been affected that you make sure appropriate plans are in place so that your son/daughter arrives at school on time. Leaving home slightly earlier than usual either by car or if walking would be a great help.

We are aware that illnesses before Christmas started to rise a little and that at the start of the Spring term there are many 'bugs' and colds circulating. The UK Health Security Agency has issued some advice to parents on how they can help to ensure that their child doesn't catch and spread illness in school or college. Some people in the media have been a little derogatory about it, but in our view it's helpful because it reminds us of our responsibility to ensure that we all stay safe and well. Specifically, the guidance says:

- Maintain the good routines of handwashing at all times
- Keep your child off school if they are ill and have a temperature and not well enough to attend
- Enquire about a flu jab for your child if they are eligible

You can read the guidance by clicking on the link [here](#). I want to reiterate that this is all designed to keep our schools and colleges open, and to protect our NHS!

Although our students returned on Wednesday, all of our staff started on Tuesday with a staff training day. It is always lovely to get all of our staff from both schools working together looking at our priorities and developments for the months ahead. There were individual bespoke sessions for staff as well as whole school sessions on the teaching of phonics and reading led by our Lower School staff. It was an excellent day and one that enthused us all!

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R Denial', written in black ink.

R Denial
Executive Headteacher