

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

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Ref: DM/SAH

December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

With Christmas just around the corner, I write to you reflecting on what has been a very productive term here at TKASA, with lots of events happening, as is usual for this time of the year. I also wanted to update you on some important information in the run up to the end of term next week.

Last Day of Term

The last day of term is on **Wednesday 20th December 2023**, we finish at the normal time, 3.10pm, and school transport has been informed. This day will also be Christmas Jumper Day where students can wear their Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform and donate an item for the Foodbank at the same time.

On this final day of term, we will be holding our Christmas Year Group Assemblies throughout the day where we will celebrate all the great work our students have done since September and we'll make the assemblies as festive as possible for all the children!

First Day Back After Christmas

As a reminder, we return to school on **Thursday 4th January 2024** for the start of Term 3.

Reverse Advent

We have continued our December tradition this year with our Reverse Advent. Thank you to those of you who have already donated. The Reverse Advent is a way in which we can support our local Food bank. Every day in December, there are trolleys on each entrance into school where students can place their food donations. These items will be collected at the end of term and will be taken to the local Food bank to be distributed within the community. We have been thrilled with the donations so far and we want to make this as special for the community as we can. I know that many in our community are facing challenges this year, especially with the increased cost of living and energy and the colder weather we have experienced recently, so the more we can do to help and support, the better.

Medical Room

As in many schools, we have a medical room on site to support the school in the case of a student, or indeed a member of staff, needing first aid. The medical room is accessible to students during social times if they are not feeling well, and at any time in the case of a first aid emergency. The medical room staff also deal with other health care tasks, eg preparation for trips, student care plans etc. We have noticed over this last month that the medical team has dispensed approximately 900 paracetamol tablets this term as students are requesting them regularly. We only give out paracetamol to students who have been given parental permission, however, this is becoming unsustainable. **Due to this growing concern for us, from January 2024, we will no longer be dispensing paracetamol.**

Should students have medication which they are required to take during the school day, they should contact Mrs Butler to complete the necessary documentation and also to arrange the safe keeping and safe storage of that medication.

We are also concerned with the number of times in which some students access the medical room. This will be logged on the student's individual classcharts account and we would ask you to speak to your child around only accessing medical if they are experiencing genuine feelings of being unwell or in an emergency. This will free up capacity for staff to attend to genuine incidents, but more than that, it ensures that students remain in lessons at all times, ready to learn.

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Attendance

Our focus this term has been on student attendance and we are very grateful to those parents who support us in this. This clear focus continues next term as we are very mindful of the importance of good attendance and its positive impact on student outcomes and school experience. Quite simply, the more your child is in school the more academically successful they are likely to be. The more academically successful they are in school, the more doors will open for them in future life after their education. We regularly talk to our students about the importance of attending school every day, but we massively need parental support in that too. If you need to discuss anything around school attendance, please contact your Head of Year in the first instance.

School Closure – Reminder

As we are approaching the season of colder weather, I wanted to remind all parents that should we need to close the school for any weather related reason, a message will be communicated to parents via weduc, and the TKASA website. We will also try wherever possible to communicate via our social media channels, should that be required.

Goodbye to Staff

This term, we say goodbye to two members of staff, Mr Gaskell in the English Department and Mr Gill in the Site Team. We wish them both well in their new posts. We will be welcoming some new staff to the school next term and I will update you about that in January.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, enjoy some time with family and friends and we look forward to welcoming the students back in the New Year.

Yours faithfully



Dan Milford
Principal