



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We were delighted this week to see Zac Lammas, in Year 13, win the Mid-Sussex Applause Award in the Young Achiever category. There is a link on our Facebook page that will take you to a video of Zac telling his story about overcoming adversity. Zac has had to come back from being seriously ill, having to learn to walk and talk again and re-learn his subjects. We think he is a real inspiration and are incredibly proud of all he has done and will continue to do. Without doubt Zac is a determined individual and will go on to be a great success in whatever direction he travels.

We are just about to enter the last week of term. We are pleased to have managed to come this far with so little disruption to learning. I appreciate there may be some concern with the reporting of infections in the last week but would like to reassure you that all three recent infections were from contacts beyond the school and were not related to each other. We believe our systems and response to identified infections, to-date, mean that the school remains a safe environment. We feel as though we have been relatively lucky with how few incidents we have experienced so far but are also aware that the careful consideration of parents and families in taking appropriate precautions has been an important factor. This has, of course, come at a cost to families keeping children at home, and self-isolating can be a real challenge which will undoubtedly have created pressures and tensions. We really appreciate your support.

I have fielded some enquiries about PE kit during the recent cold spell. We need to strike a balance in PE with keeping students active and keeping them warm. This means they must have appropriate clothing. Students must wear PE kit for lessons but can supplement this in winter months with base layers, blue long sleeved tops and leggings can be worn under their PE kit as previously stated. It is not appropriate for them to wear elements of their existing uniform, i.e. their school jumper or school hoodie. If lessons are on the field such clothing could get quite muddy, there needs to be some separation between clothes worn for PE and clothes worn at other times.

You will be aware that there has been some speculation about whether schools should hold an inset day on the last day of term. Government guidance states we can move an existing inset day to the end of term but cannot have an additional inset day. We believe the announcement of this (Tuesday afternoon) comes far too late for schools and families to adapt plans, inset days are organised around our calendar to optimise training opportunities, they are important occasions. The offer of finishing term one day earlier will, in practice, make little difference to the impact of infections. Our plans therefore remain as communicated last week. Term ends on Friday 18th December at 12.20pm.

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Travel arrangements on the last day are confirmed as follows for students who catch school coaches/buses & taxis.

- School coach service 903 and all taxis/minibuses are able to collect students at their relevant sites at 12.20pm.
- The following Metrobus services will also run their usual route: 624, 638, 642, 643, 648, 400.
- Metrobus service 84 is available from Brooklands Way, East Grinstead at 14.21pm for Sixth Form Students.
- Southdown PSV service 236 to Lingfield/Dormansland can be boarded on Baldwins Hill Road at 13.42pm but will not collect from Imberhome Lane.

We trust this meets with your approval but should there be any difficulties please inform your son/daughter's Head of Year as soon as possible.

Finally, we have been asked to make available a transport survey for parents to complete. WSCC are interested in hearing from you about the impact Covid 19 has had on transport and travel. Please follow this link to the survey <http://www.imberhome.co.uk/content/west-sussex-transport-survey-0>

I hope for one more week of calmness before the end of term!

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher