

December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you

As we approach the end of a busy term I want to thank you for your continued support. A strong partnership between school and home is crucial in ensuring your children are safe, happy and successful in school. We have a wonderful school and this is because we have a community that care for and support each other.

End of term information

The Christmas break is fast approaching and I want to ensure that you have the relevant information that you need for the last week of term and the return to school in January:

- School will end at the normal time of **3.15pm** on **Friday 23rd December**
- All pupils return on **Tuesday 10th January 2022** (please note Monday 9th January is an INSET day and school will be closed to all pupils)

Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 23rd December 2021

We have invited our pupils to wear Christmas jumpers on the last day of term. We ask for a one off £1 donation from each family for this, which will be collected in tutor time. All monies raised will go towards our chosen charity, ManUp. Christmas jumpers can be worn instead of blazers on this day. Please note all other elements of the school uniform must still be worn and that pupils who choose not to wear a Christmas jumper must wear their blazer.

Dates to note in January 2023

- Please note that the online Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening is on Tuesday 24th January. Parents/carers will be contacted when the appointment booking system is opened. Appointments will all take place through a browser supported video-link.
- Year 11 guidance meetings, which support post 16 progression, will run on 17th, 18th and 19th January.

Uniform

Pupils are aware that our uniform code should be adhered to at all times. <http://www.whickhamschool.org/parents-information/uniform/>. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not acceptable and pupils will be asked to remove them. Persistent and deliberate breaches of the uniform policy will result in confiscation of inappropriate items. Trainers / trainer type shoes, plimsolls or ballet style shoes are not acceptable at any time.

School skirts must not be rolled up or altered and if a pupil refuses to comply, they will be asked to wear trousers. School ties must also be in good condition without any deliberate damage. If a tie is found to be deliberately damaged, it will be confiscated and pupils will be asked to replace this.

If we experience several centimetres of snow or particularly poor weather, it may be necessary for pupils to wear some more appropriate footwear, e.g. wellington boots, in which to walk to school. Pupils should have their uniform shoes in a bag to change into once in school. The school will always aim to open as long as it is safe to do so. In the event that school is closed, work will be set for each lesson through Microsoft Teams and/or Google classroom. This is detailed in our [Snow & Bad Weather policy](#).

Equipment Packs

Pupils should check that they have all of the items needed in their equipment packs and, if any replenishments are needed, take the opportunity over the holidays to top up. Equipment packs can be ordered via Parent Pay and the canteen is open 8.15am - 9.10am each day for pens/pencils and other items of stationery.

Cost of living

The festive period can cause money worries for many people and this year, the rising cost of food, energy and other essentials means more families than ever before are facing financial challenges. Gateshead Council has produced a [guide](#) to help anyone who might be struggling to make ends meet. It includes details of payments you might be eligible for, what to do if you can't afford your energy bills, support for your mental health and more. There's more information and advice, as well as a directory of organisations you can contact for more help at: www.gateshead.gov.uk/costofliving

I hope you get time to rest and enjoy time with loved ones over the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely



Fraser Turnbull
Headteacher

Registered in England No. 7729766

Whickham School,
Burnthouse Lane, Whickham,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE16 5AR

T: 0191 496 0026
E: info@whickhamschool.org
www.whickhamschool.org

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