

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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17 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of a very busy and long term. Even though we were unable to finish the year with our usual Church services, I am very grateful to Michael, our Chaplain, and Rev Canon Peter Ballard for arranging an online service at short notice. We heard about the Christmas message and we were encouraged as a school community to reflect on how we can go out into the world to make it a better place, just like Jesus did. Thank you also to our pupils who led the readings and prayers.

We had a lovely last week with the Elf / Reindeer run, the Carol Service, our Christmas jumper day and our school Christmas dinners. Do have a look on our social media for photos of the events.

Grades

End of term grades were made available to all parents via the Parent Portal yesterday. You should have received an email notification of this.

Parking

Magnet

We have been contacted by the manager at Magnet. They have informed us that the use of their car park is now for their customers only due to it becoming increasingly busy. Please do not use their car park to drop off or pick up.

Cycle Lane

On a similar note, many cars are continuing to park on the cycle lane on the railway bridge approaching Ripley to drop off and pick up. This is a safety concern for our pupils who use the cycle path when coming to school so please do not park or pull in there.

Pupil Welfare Phone Number

The pupil welfare WhatsApp phone number is available during the holiday period for pupils should they need to contact us. The number, which can also be found in pupil journals, is 07935 029991. Please reassure pupils that they can reach out to us if they need to.

Asymptomatic Testing of pupils in January

Pupils will have a staggered return in January to allow asymptomatic testing of pupils to reduce the risk of spreading COVID within our community. **We strongly encourage you to sign up for testing as soon as possible.** To book your timeslot, please use the relevant link below:

Date of "test and leave"	URL of booking system
Tuesday 4 January (Y11, Y12 and Y13)	https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUE
Wednesday 5 January (Y9 & Y10)	https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUN
Thursday 6 January (Y7 & Y8)	https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUO

Believe.....

We appreciate that families with children in multiple year groups may have difficulty with testing on different days. The booking system will, therefore, permit the booking of pupils in different year groups together so they can all be tested at the same time. Testing will start at 8.30am and will continue until 3pm each day. We can test ten pupils every 5 minutes so we should have plenty of appointments, but we would advise booking at your earliest convenience.

The booking systems will close at **midnight on 28 December** and no further bookings will be possible after this date. Please do not telephone after this date to request an appointment as we will not be able to facilitate late requests.

If your child has had COVID within the last 90 days, to prevent a false positive result being recorded it is better not to sign up for testing yet but recommence home testing once the 90 days has elapsed.

Home Testing

We strongly urge everyone to continue with twice weekly testing over the Christmas holidays to keep families safe from COVID. Pupils can collect test kits from school or they can be obtained from various places in our locality. To see the list of local places, please go to <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and I pray that all we have organised with friends and family can go ahead as planned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Walmsley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Mrs C Walmsley
Principal