



EL/td/201119

20th November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this second half term gets well underway, I wanted to write with some important updates and reminders.

Friday November 22nd Training Day & Friday December 6th Early Close

School will be closed to all students on Friday November 22nd for our 3rd Staff Training day of the year. School will also close early on December 6th, we will be providing an extended brunch for students in the morning and will dismiss students at 12.30pm.

Parent Forum, Thursday November 28th 5pm – 6.30pm

Our second parent forum of the year takes place on Thursday November 28th. We would like to take the opportunity to find out about your experience of our new Exam Preparation Homework Booklets; to test out the design of our new school reports; to share our new feedback policy and to discuss how we are using student voice to help us on our improvement journey. I am sure you will have important views to share and ideas that will be really useful to inform our next steps. So that we can cater for numbers, I would be grateful if you could contact school reception on 0121 453 1778 or email enquiries@colmers.school to confirm your attendance.

Parking and Drop-Off – Road Safety for All

Many thanks to those of you who have adapted travel arrangements to assist with road safety during the time our car park is closed. Please can I remind parents and carers not to drive into Belton Grove, this is a hot spot where there are risks for students crossing the road especially given it is used by the Primary School. Please drop off at Morrisons or McDonalds as an alternative and under no circumstances stop to drop of a child along the Bristol Road itself.

Instrumental Lessons

I am delighted that we are re-launching a range of instrumental lessons this year. Learning an instrument can be a life-changing experience for a young person and I am keen to make sure we nurture the talent and potential of our budding musicians. So far, we have had sufficient take-up to start Guitar and Keyboard lessons. We would love to extend the offer to Ukulele, Vocal, Piano / Keyboard and Drum-Kit but need greater numbers before we can confirm these will be offered. If you are interested in your child taking up this opportunity, please contact the provider, Newave Education at www.registration.newave-education.co.uk or by phone on 01543 444 293.

We may be able to provide financial support to some children and families so please contact Mrs Brereton on ebrereton@colmers.school or through the main school reception number to enquire about this.



Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality have been an ongoing concern for us here at Colmers for a number of years. While we have many students who consistently maintain 100% attendance, with many others on 98% or higher, it remains a significant concern that too many students are falling below the acceptable level of 95% attendance. We are focusing with students on how many sessions they have missed so far this year and from this week, every member of staff is taking on the role of Attendance Champion for one student who needs to make improvements.

Champions will be contacting parents and carers to explore how we can best support your child to reduce their absence and/or lateness. I sincerely hope this makes a difference; reluctantly, I am pursuing court action with our worst attenders and would of course like to avoid this by working closely with students and families to address any concerns and make improvements.

If you are concerned about your child’s attendance and need support to turn this around, please do not hesitate to contact either our Attendance Manager, Miss Gilchrist, your child’s Form Tutor or their Head of Year.

Yours sincerely

Ms E Leaman
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

November 21 st	School Presentation Evening
November 22 nd	Staff INSET Day – School closed to students
November 28 th	Parent & Carers Forum 5pm – 6.30pm
December 6 th	School early closure 12.30pm
December 20 th	School closes for Christmas break
January 6 th	Staff INSET Day – school closed to students
January 7 th	School opens for students
February 17 th - 21 st February	Half Term Holiday