



18<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Important Information for the Last Week of Term

I do not normally write to parents and carers on a Sunday morning; however I have been in discussion over the weekend with various stakeholders. As you are aware, Chew Valley has within its community an increasing number of positive covid cases which have developed over the past week and a half. Throughout this period, I have been in conversation with Public Health England and Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) about our situation.

As you may have read in the weekend press, the situation across the country has been similar with a reported figure of 840,000 children needing to isolate last week. At the same time you will be aware that major sectors of the economy have suggested that they will struggle due to the number of employers who have been contact traced through the NHS app. We have also had a significant number of our staff placed in the same situation with regards to the app notification or are having to understandably be at home to support their own children who have been isolated by the schools they attend. Staff are able to teach online from home but cannot be in person on the school site. We had already placed all Year 10 lessons on Microsoft Teams last week due to the numbers of students that needed to be isolated whilst other year groups continued with lessons in school.

Following further cases being reported and after looking at our situation, discussing this with other schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership and following discussions with our Chair and Vice Chair of Governors, I have taken the **decision to move all year groups with the exception of Year 7 onto Microsoft Teams** for the remainder of term.

Year 7 have less cases than other year groups and therefore we will continue to teach them in school. Can I ask that they come in their PE kits for the last three days and due to the warm weather make sure they have plenty of water and sun cream with them. If they are able to bring a hat then we will of course allow them to wear this when they are outside although Chew Valley is lucky with the amount of shade that our trees afford us and we will certainly use this. We are also going to look to allow Year 7 to potentially use areas of the school that despite being with us for nearly a year they have not gained access to so far.

It is important to note that for the rest of the school lessons **on Microsoft Teams will be delivered by staff and registers will be taken**. Normal school days will run on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday normal lessons will run for Periods 1 and 2 with tutor time taking place between 11.30am and 12.05pm. School will not finish for the summer break until that time.

Students in Year 8 and above, regardless of whether or not they are isolating, can therefore stay at home and access their learning online. I am aware that this is short notice and for students and families who want to come into school for a variety of reasons, we will continue to make provision for them using our computer rooms/facilities where they will access the same learning as at home.

The end of the academic year has been a challenging one and we certainly have not been able to finish in the way we would have wished. By placing Year 8 upwards on Microsoft Teams it means that over the next two and a half days every child in these year groups will get interaction with staff regardless of if they are having to isolate or not.

With best wishes

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher