



# Chew Valley School

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14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

With six weeks completed, we are well into the academic year and next Friday we close for our October half term break. Much has happened in the time that we have been back since the summer with key learning taking place in classrooms along with our school returning towards some normality. We have been able to return to our vertical tutor groups and have assemblies in our Hall on a weekly basis. Students have listened to recent presentations on Black History Month, student led assemblies on Climate Change and how we set up learning at Chew Valley School along with detail on our school values of mutual respect and positive relationships with follow-up work on each of the areas in subsequent tutor time sessions.

It has also been encouraging that students are now getting the chance to take part in an increasing number of activities around the site with some expeditions, sporting fixtures and activities such as Drama Club back in full swing. Our Change and Create Teams are also continuing which is very important to us. If students do have any questions as to how they might access any of these activities then they should speak with their tutor in the first instance.

I have toured the school regularly in recent weeks, often with prospective parents and carers whose children are currently in Year 6 in a host of primary schools. It has been wonderful to show them around and to see the school at work during the day. Senior staff have also been visiting classrooms and we have been really impressed overall with how well the students have settled.

Year 10 and 11 parents and carers had the opportunity to come into school for an Information Evening on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October and a range of parents and carers joined Mrs Pope and Miss Kenyon on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October at the Relationships and Sex Education Evening where a range of areas, including consent and relationships, were covered whilst explaining how our curriculum operates. If you missed either of these evenings, the resources are now available on the website.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October, there is the opportunity for you to meet with tutors online to review how the first term has gone. If you haven't already done so and would like to, please make your appointments on SchoolCloud via the following link <https://chewvalley.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. Families will be able to view student reports online prior to tutor sessions. Following these discussions, students will be working in tutor times on their individual targets for the period leading up to Christmas.

Year 11 and 13 students continue to prepare for examinations next summer and I know are working hard. On the 30<sup>th</sup> September the government announced the arrangements they have put in place which can be seen in the following document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/outcome/decisions-proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022>. As is the case with all schools, we are working through the implications of this document and will be in communication with all students and families regarding this in due course. To note at this stage, it has been announced that A Level and other Level 3 courses will have their results day on the 18<sup>th</sup> August with GCSE and other Level 2 courses on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022. For students in Year 11, our own Sixth Form Open Evening is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

I know some families have needed to isolate this term due to students testing positive with COVID-19. Statistically our figures are low compared with other schools and regions at present. Can I however ask everyone to continue to be vigilant and to follow the clear protocol in place.

The attached letter from Virgin Care contains further information, along with consent link, regarding the COVID-19 vaccination programme which will take place in school, for those who have consented, alongside the nasal flu vaccination on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Should you wish your child to receive this vaccine, consent must be given by midnight on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Can I finally wish you and your families a good half term break.

With very best wishes

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## **COVID-19 vaccination CONSENT for children aged 12 to 15 years of age**

I am writing to inform you that we will imminently be offering COVID-19 vaccinations in school. Covid vaccinations will only be administered to children where a positive consent has been completed by parents/ guardians. If there is any discrepancy between child and parental view a call will be made to parents away from the immunisation sessions to discuss and catch-up vaccination arranged where required.

This vaccination will be free of charge and our highest priority is making it easy for children to access one dose of the vaccine before the winter.

The main purpose of the COVID-19 school age vaccination programme is to provide protection to the children who receive the vaccine and may help to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the wider population.

By consenting you will be helping to play your part in reducing the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

Please see information on the children's covid vaccination to inform your consent via this link: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1019020/PHE\\_12073\\_COVID-19\\_parents\\_leaflet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1019020/PHE_12073_COVID-19_parents_leaflet.pdf)

Please ensure you discuss the vaccination with your child and go through the above information (on the link) about the vaccine with them, so they are fully informed at point of vaccination.

**The programme is open to all young people in school years 7-11 who are 12 years or older on the date of vaccination** (this includes those in Year 11 who are 16 and have not received the vaccination). The vaccine is being co-administered alongside the nasal flu vaccine in school, the consent for the flu vaccination has been distributed via separate communication from school so please also complete the flu consent if you wish your child to receive both vaccines. Please note the Covid vaccine is not a live vaccine and there is therefore no risk to other children or unvaccinated children from this taking place in school.

The 12–15-year-olds vaccination is currently a one dose vaccine schedule. Should this change, or your child is identified as clinically extremely vulnerable or living with an immuno-compromised household member, contact will be made to obtain consent for subsequent vaccine doses where required.

**Please indicate your consent or decline to vaccination by completing an electronic consent via this link:**

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/covid/2021/banes>

**The NHS Number is not a mandatory field so please leave this blank if not available.**

**Please note the e-consent will only be open until Midnight on Sunday 17th October 2021**, it is therefore essential if you wish your child to receive the vaccine this is completed immediately upon receipt.

Should you need support in completing the consent or have queries relating to this programme please contact the School Immunisation Service on [VCL.immunisations@nhs.net](mailto:VCL.immunisations@nhs.net) or via 0300 247 0082.

Please note should your query relate to missing the consent window for your school, the team will not be able to re-open consent for the booked date but you will be able to access the vaccine through a community catch up clinic booking - information will be distributed regarding this when available.

Best wishes,

School Immunisation Service  
Virgin Care Limited

Information about COVID-19 vaccines is available at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine).

**School Age Immunisations Team**  
**Virgin Care Services Limited**

**Telephone: 0300 247 0082**

**e:** [VCL.immunisations@nhs.net](mailto:VCL.immunisations@nhs.net)

**w:** [www.virginicare.co.uk](http://www.virginicare.co.uk)

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