



The  
Westminster  
School

# Newsletter

Safe, Happy and Learning Together

December 2020

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## COVID 19 - IMPORTANT

If your child or anyone in your child's home has coronavirus symptoms, however minor, including:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss, or change to, sense of smell or taste

or you have been contacted by the NHS Track and Trace service to say that your child or anyone in your child's home may have been in contact with someone who has COVID 19:

- Do not send your child into school.
- Contact the school to report the reason for the absence so we can instigate our testing and tracing procedures, if required.
- Please ring 119 to organise a test or go to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) to book a test online.

We made it!!! The festive finish line is here!!!

This term has been a huge challenge logistically due to the impact of COVID. However, there's light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine around the corner and more robust testing for school communities. This is not to say that we must let our guard down and there is still a real risk and we will continue with the robust measures in order to keep everyone safe. Anyway, that's enough of COVID, for now at least.

The commitment from staff during these challenging times has been exceptional and they have kept wellbeing at the centre of everything in order to transition back into the setting. We continue to build on the Safe and Happy aspects of our school motto however with a renewed and re-energised focus on Learning Together after the break.

On Thursday 17 December we ran our first ever socially distanced festive market. There was hot chocolate, waffles, crepes, hot dogs and garlic bread, even Christopher Kringle made an appearance which was nice. This was a great way for our P16 cohorts to work alongside staff and run the stands and demonstrate their developing employability skills. It was a roaring success, just what was needed after a challenging start to the academic year. I would like to thank everyone involved in pulling this together at such short notice. Next year we will be opening it up to parents and carers to come and taste the delights, our prices will be much more competitive than the annual German Market in Birmingham.

After the break we look forward to the reintroduction of swimming and outdoor Learning at Baggeridge Country Park which genuinely enrich our curriculum offering and have been really missed by everyone.

Thank you for all your support in relation to the opening of a Special College and early signs are looking really positive. We are now working closely with the Local Authority to make this dream a reality for the good of our young people and the wider community. I will keep you posted with any developments as they happen.

I hope you are able to safely come together with your loved ones over the festive break. Please continue to follow the government guidance in relation to social distancing. Have a safe and happy Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 4 January 2021.

Mr O M Flowers  
Head Teacher



## Social Enterprise

Our students have been very busy this term making products to sell as part of their social enterprise studies.

Our social enterprise teams have made a range of items which have been on sale to parents and carers. These include customised masks, bird boxes and spice racks and Christmas decorations

We also want to say a very big 'thank you' to Jan, Asda's Community Champion at the Halesowen store, for donating lots of items to enable students to make nappy cakes. Some of these will be donated to Sandwell Hospital and some will be sold.



## Congratulations!

Huge congratulations to Christine and Jody for their hard work and dedication to help keep our school clean and germ free!

They have been awarded certificates of achievement for passing their cleaning assessments whilst working with Interserve FM on campus.



Both students returned to TWS in September to complete their internship as they were unable to continue at their placements due to COVID restrictions.

Kelly Summers (Interserve Supervisor) presented the certificates to the students in a ceremony attended by the whole early morning cleaning team.

## Changes to COVID Self Isolation Periods and Track and Trace

You may be aware that the Government has reduced the self-isolation period for anyone who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID from 14 to 10 days.

This means that pupils can return to school after 10 days, should they have been asked to self-isolate. NHS Track and Trace should confirm to all close contacts they date when you can stop self-isolating.

Track and trace arrangements for schools will change slightly due to the Christmas break. If your child develops symptoms and tests positive for COVID from Monday 21 December, **you do not need** to let School know. However, you will need to let NHS Track and Trace know. NHS Track and Trace will contact anyone who tests positive and ask for details of your close contacts.

If your child develops symptoms between Friday 18 December and Sunday 20 December, please let the School know by calling 0121 281 3664.

## Visitors to School During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to infection control measures we need to put into place due to COVID, we have had to make some changes in relation to how visitors come in to school. We are limiting access to the site to essential visitors only by appointment. If you have a meeting with a member of School staff, we ask that you report to Reception and you will be asked to go back to your car and a member of staff will collect you. If you have not come to school by car, we will ask you to stand outside of the building and someone will collect you. Umbrellas will be available in case of poor weather.

It will no longer be possible to wait in Reception or sit outside the Reception area due to the size of the areas and the restricted airflow through these spaces.

If you wish to speak to a member of staff, we ask that you make an appointment by ringing the school on 0121 561 6884. Unfortunately, we will be unable to see any visitors who come into school without an appointment.

# Christmas

We held our first Christmas Market for pupils on 17 December. Students and staff enjoyed hot dogs, garlic bread, waffles, crepes, mince pies and hot chocolate and were even able to visit Santa in his grotto. We even had a snow machine! Students also helped to run stalls, preparing and serving food. Everyone had an amazing time.

The market was just one of the celebration events we held during the last week of term for pupils to take part in. Pupils were also able to enjoy our socially-distanced Christmas Dinner, Christmas Jumper Day, Virtual Carol Concert and Class Parties. We wish all our families a very Happy Christmas!



# Market





Sep-20						
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28	29	30				

Oct-20						
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Nov-20						
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Dec-20						
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Jan-21						
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Feb-21						
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Mar-21						
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Apr-21						
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May-21						
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Jun-21						
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Jul-21						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

 INSET Days - school closed to students  
 Holidays

### Contacting the School's Senior Leadership Team

If you have any questions or queries, please do email us on [headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk).

This is the quickest way to contact the Head Teacher, the Deputy Head Teachers and Pathway Leaders.

We will respond to all emails as soon as we can.

## Evidence for Learning (EfL)

We are continuing to use Evidence for Learning to capture and record evidence of your child's learning. This is used by all teachers throughout the school to evidence their achievements across all subjects. You will also be able to upload pictures, videos and make comments about learning achievements at home. If you haven't already received your log in, we will be in touch with this over the next few weeks.

For more information and details on how to log in, please go to <http://thewestminsterschool.co.uk/efl>

## Class Webpages

To make it easier to communicate the plans for this academic year with parents and carers each class group now has their own webpage.

On the webpage you will find useful information including:

- A video introducing your teacher
- Class timetable
- Drop-off and pick up times
- Curriculum Pathway Handbook

We will update this throughout the year with useful information and celebrations of pupil achievements. To see the information please go to <http://www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk/classgroups> and click on the relevant class group.

## Raise Money for The Westminster School Every Time You Shop Online



We're now registered with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk), which means you can help us for FREE. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) to shop with them - at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at <https://bit.ly/31qQhJR>