



## Tudor Grange Primary Academy, St James

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of the autumn term we have paused to reflect on our first term of the academic year. Together we have triumphed and continued to offer our pupils a space to flourish. Thank you to all of you for supporting us in adhering to the measures in place to maintain a covid-secure environment for staff and pupils, we know that it has not been easy and requires additional thought and effort when dropping-off and collecting your children. Our pupils remain impressive, facing each change with confidence and optimism. Well done everyone!

You may already be aware that the DfE made two significant announcements yesterday:

- Schools have been asked to switch to remote learning for the week beginning 4th January for all students apart from years 11 and 13 and for students of key workers and vulnerable students
- Mass testing of students and staff will be rolled out in January in all schools to reduce transmission of the virus and the disruption this causes to education

You can find a press release written by the DfE about the staggered start to the new term and the intended roll out of testing in schools [here](#). The DfE have also published a blog answering some of the most frequently asked questions already emerging about testing [here](#). **Please note that these announcements do not apply to primary provision and therefore arrangements remain exactly the same as has been communicated.**

You will already have received a specific communication regarding the contact details regarding covid-19 tests over the holiday. If you need to refer to this please see a copy at [https://www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk/?wpfb\\_dl=467](https://www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk/?wpfb_dl=467)

We know that sometimes the number of email communications you receive from school can be overwhelming and so we are exploring a different option, where parents can receive one or two communications per week containing live links to current information. Further details to follow in the Spring term.

During the last few months we have seen changes in staffing as some staff have moved to working from home. Miss Davies (Y3/4) continues to join our classes remotely, and it has been wonderful to see her cheerful presence in the classroom, even if it is via a screen. Mrs Mistry and Mrs Nazerali will be starting their respective maternity leave in the first half of the spring term, but we will update you more on that nearer the time. Whilst Mrs Nazerali hopes to still be working throughout the whole of January, we welcome the addition of Mrs Sandhu who will be joining year 1 after the Christmas break as class teacher, in order to offer continuity to the pupils.





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Throughout this all, our aim remains to provide the highest quality staffing team in order to provide the very best possible outcomes for your children and we thank you for your continued understanding whilst we work to resolve any challenges.

Today we say farewell to someone who has worked for Tudor Grange so long that she is practically part of the furniture. Val Ford, Chef Manager is taking a well-earned retirement and will be sorely missed by all at TGPASJ. She leaves us in the capable hands of Lydia Collins so no one will go hungry! Thank you Val, for all your hard work and care.

We will also be saying goodbye to Miss Ames on 18<sup>th</sup> December...and be welcoming her back in January as Mrs Hampton. I do hope you will join me in sending the new Mr and Mrs Hampton our many congratulations.

Our pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1 thoroughly enjoyed performing their Christmas productions in front of the camera last week. Now that we have access to the final edit, links will be shared via the class pages on the website and email – please note only parents of pupils in those year groups will be able to access the performances, and they will be required to log in via their child's Office 365 / teams account. We will also post instructions under the class pages to support you in accessing these. A huge thank you to Dom from Dom Whiting Media who has spent many hours this week putting it together!

Panto season enveloped school this week, with classes from year 1 to year 6 experiencing fun and frolics within their own classrooms. There was even time for ice cream! Thank you to the PTA for supporting us financially with this.

We are fortunate enough to have staff who are not only passionate about continuing to improve the experience of our pupils, but whom also are proactive in developing the next generation of teachers. I would like to thank Miss Pearson, Miss Ames, Mrs Luckhurst, Mrs Lewis and all the pupils in their classes for welcoming student teachers into their bubbles and offering such a rich experience. We wish Miss Brown, Miss Rhodas-Cross, Miss Bickerton and Mr Jarvis every success as they move on to their next placements.

All that remains is to wish you all a very happy and safe festive break. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2021!

Yours sincerely

Miss S Deakin  
Executive Principal for Primary

