



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear parent/carer,

This half term has flown by for many of us. It has been fantastic to have all pupils back in school, especially with the positive attitudes they have started the year showing their teachers.

### **Parent Consultation Evenings**

Because of social distancing requirements, we will be unable to conduct in person parent consultations this term. Instead, class teachers will be contacting all parents by phone to discuss the progress of their child. These telephone appointments will be booked in 10 minutes slots via an online link which will be sent to you shortly.

The appointment will take place during the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> November, a week later than planned. I hope this change does not cause you any inconvenience.

### **Remote learning**

It is a requirement that schools provide learning at home for any child who is self – isolating because of close contact with someone testing positive or showing symptoms of coronavirus. I recently sent information to you detailing how we will be providing learning in cases of individuals isolating or in the case of a whole class or bubble needing to isolate and have attached it with this letter. You can also find this information on the website by clicking [HERE](#).

**In the event of any form of isolation and loss of learning caused by Coronavirus, parents must understand that engagement in home available learning is compulsory, as is the expectation that Ivingswood Academy makes that provision and accessible to all.**

### **Coronavirus Symptoms**

Although school will be closed from today, it is important that we are notified if any child has symptoms and receives a positive test for coronavirus on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October or Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October as this will mean that staff and pupils who have had contact with a positive case (within 48hours before symptoms start) will need to isolate. Please ensure that you email [office@ivingswoodacademy.org](mailto:office@ivingswoodacademy.org) if your child develops symptoms. Please do not call or text as this will not be checked during half term. Please also ensure that you check for emails and texts from Ivingswood in the first few days of the holidays in case I need to contact you regarding bubble isolation.

### **School Uniform**

Most of our children have returned to school looking very smart in their school uniform but there are a few that are not quite in the correct uniform. The details of the required uniform are on our website: [HERE](#)

ALL children should be wearing the correct uniform and a school PE kit. Remember that

**Headteacher**  
Julie-Ann Swaysland

**Telephone:**  
+44 (0) 1494 783 070

Ivingswood Academy  
Greenway  
Chesham  
Buckinghamshire  
HP5 2BY

**Email:**  
[Office@ivingswoodacademy.org](mailto:Office@ivingswoodacademy.org)

**Website:**  
[www.ivingswoodacademy.org](http://www.ivingswoodacademy.org)



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children should wear **black school shoes (not trainers)**. Children should be wearing a purple or white T-shirt for PE with black or grey shorts or tracksuit trousers. As the weather turns colder, please also ensure that your child wears a jumper or sweatshirt to school.

Children with long hair need to have it tied up for school. If your child does wear earrings, they should be small sleepers and be removed for PE. If they have recently pierced ears, please ensure your child has some tape which they can put over their earrings for PE so that the earrings don't catch on anything and cause an injury.

### **Winter clothing**

Please ensure that your child comes to school everyday with a coat and a change of shoes. We will continue to use the school fields at playtimes and lunchtimes to ensure social distancing between bubbles so it is important that children have a change of shoes to wear outside.

### **Year 6 Selection Test and Secondary School Selection**

Applications for secondary school places must be made by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Please speak to Mrs Newington if you have any problems applying.

After half term, our year 6 pupils will sit their selection tests. They will sit a practise test on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the final test on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November. If you do not wish your child to sit the test, please make sure that you have informed us in writing before the final test on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Lego Cards and Toys from home**

Due to Covid restrictions, children should not be bringing to school any toys from home, including Lego cards. Please ensure that these stay at home or leave with you when you drop your child to school.

### **School Lunches**

After half term, we will be offering hot food at lunchtimes as well as our current sandwich menu. You can find our menu on the website by clicking [HERE](#). Please order your child's lunches through ParentPay. If you have any issues accessing ParentPay, please contact the office staff who will be able to help you.

If children are having a school lunch but are bringing an additional item to eat, please make sure that it comes to school in a named bag or lunchbox to be stored by the class teacher. This helps to avoid any confusion over who the food belongs to and when it should be eaten.

### **Attendance**

We have had a great start to the year with our attendance figures and it's been fantastic to see so many children in school on time every day. A reminder that children can be dropped to school from 8.30am and all children are expected to be in school by 8.50am. We have noticed some children beginning to regularly arrive after the gates close at 8.50am.

If your child is absent, please ensure that you notify the office by 9.30am. We have a legal duty to ensure the safety and whereabouts of pupils and, if we have not been notified of an absence, may make a doorstep visit to check on children.

### **Parking**

Please do not park or stop on the yellow zig zags outside of the school gates as it endangers those children trying to cross the road. Mr Newns is unable to see cars coming up or down the road which puts him and the children waiting to cross the road in danger.

### **Social Distancing – message from Buckinghamshire Council**

Please see the letter below from Simon James, Service Director of Buckinghamshire Council regarding Social Distancing:

*We would like to thank you all for working with schools across Buckinghamshire to support the return for pupils. We know that all of you are keen to ensure that schools and pupil 'bubbles' remain open and there is a reduced need for pupils to self-isolate. We currently have over a thousand children within the county who are required to stay at home, and like you we are keen to minimise the impact on pupils and families wherever possible.*

*You can help with this through ensuring that government guidance is applied in your own lives, and especially when you are at or near your child's school site. Please make sure that you maintain appropriate social distances (2 metres/three paces apart) whilst collecting and dropping off your children and that you maintain hand hygiene before and after touching playground gates etc.*

*These simple actions, as well as wearing masks if you need to go inside at any time, will help your child's school to remain open and that children do not have to isolate at home unnecessarily. This message is endorsed by Children's Services and Public Health at Buckinghamshire Council as well as primary, secondary and special school head teachers.*

### **Zero Tolerance**

A reminder to all parents that Ivingswood Academy operates a zero tolerance policy on its grounds. This means that using inappropriate language, threats or acts of aggression towards staff, pupils or other parents will not be tolerated on these premises. Anyone behaving in such a way will be asked to leave, could be banned from school premises and their behaviour may be reported to the police.

We also expect parents to behave appropriately outside of the school gates whilst in the vicinity of school. Please refrain from using inappropriate language or having conversations of an adult nature when children are walking to and from school. Please also refrain from smoking immediately outside of the school gates or on the pathway when children are walking to and from school as a courtesy to other parents and children.

If you have concerns about any pupils or parents, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership who will support you in dealing with your concerns.

### **Safeguarding concerns**

If you have any concerns about pupils of Ivingswood, please contact us via [concerns@ivingswoodacademy.org](mailto:concerns@ivingswoodacademy.org) which is regularly checked. During term time you may also speak to Mrs Newington or Mrs Swaysland via the school office. During holidays, the school office email and phone will only be checked sporadically so any response may be delayed.

As I mentioned at the start of my letter, the children have settled in beautifully to school life, despite the long break. I am sure you will agree that this is in part thanks to the teachers and staff within school who have worked so hard to bring a sense of normality into school and to ensure that children are safe and cared for. I would like to wish them and you a restful half term break and look forward to seeing you again on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

Yours sincerely,

Julie-Ann Swaysland  
Headteacher