



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Tuesday 5th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 05.12.23

The wet weather yesterday may have put a damper on learning but not on our spirits as we moved quickly to closing the site once it became clear that School Transport needed to collect students and make the journey home sooner rather than later.

One again, students showed great resilience and maturity as we worked to ensure registers were completed and permissions in place before they were allowed to make their way home.

Despite a drier start today, Ilminster buses are still unable to run, with several roads remaining impassable. It's a similar story for staff – a significant number couldn't make it in again, although we do have enough adults on site to manage the reduced number of students also here.

As sent to parents this morning, students unable to attend due to adverse weather conditions / transport issues will not be penalised for non-attendance.

Looking ahead to Thursday, with another weather warning in place and rain expected from Wednesday afternoon onwards, I will be meeting school leaders across the community on Wednesday to determine a suitable course of action.

It's never an easy decision to close a school, but with the safety of everyone in mind, the potential disruption many people will face in making journeys Thursday morning, along with high levels of staff absence we'll likely experience again, it may be sensible to consider switching to remote learning on Thursday to ensure learning and well-being remain at the heart of what we do.

I will be in contact with parents Wednesday afternoon to give further information about our contingency plans.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mr C Chapman



Top Performing Students

Here's this week's Top 3 across Years 7-11. Great to see some new names, as well as siblings across families – making for some happy conversations around the dinner table for sure!

Week Commencing 27.11.23

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Rita P	Luke P	Jack A	Jarvis H	Joshua H
2	Bertie P	Leilani L	Alex G	Edie P	Sean C
3	Florence R	Summer H	Callum G	Rebekah H	Taylor M

Non-Uniform & Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 8th December

Year 11 Prefects and our Well-being Ambassadors have come together to arrange a non-uniform day for this Friday, 8th December.

For a minimum £1 donation students may wear non-uniform and are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper, if they have one.

As tradition dictates, there's also likely to be Karaoke in the Hall at lunchtime!

Monies raised will be given in support of Save the Children (National Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 7th December) with a smaller portion going towards the Year 11 Prom Committee.



Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge: 1st – 12th December

Thank you to everyone that has begun setting aside items for this year's Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge.

Donations need to be items that can be stored. We are kindly asking for: tinned goods, dry food in packets, pasta, cereal, juice, toiletries, hygiene products.

Families can help by placing an item in a box from 1st December until the 12th December, bringing the box in to school on this day so that we can distribute it to local charities.



Carols by Candlelight – Thursday 14th December, 6.00-7.30pm

Parents and Carers are warmly invited to our "Carols by Candlelight" Evening, taking place at Wadham School, 6.00-7.30pm on Thursday 14th December.

We will celebrate the Nativity story through readings and carols, ending with mince-pies and hot chocolate - and the opportunity of an informal sing-a-long to some classic Christmas songs!

To manage numbers attending and ensure enough refreshments, please book your place at this Event by Friday 8th December, using the following link or QR code : <https://forms.office.com/e/iwy9GzqJ6H>



End of Term Arrangements – 12.10pm finish on Friday 15th December

Now is the time to highlight that our last day this term will finish at 12.10pm.

Like last year, normal lessons will be replaced by a carousel of reward and community activities. Year 11 will also have their Rewards Assembly on this day.

All students will end the day with a tutor period, from which students will be dismissed at 12.10pm. School transport will depart at 12.15pm!

Parent Governor Opportunity!

The Board of Governors for Wadham School currently has vacancies for at least 2 Parent Governors.

We are seeking parent governors to join our committed and enthusiastic team at a time of great change in the life and development of the school.

The role of a Governor is to:

- Help plan the strategic direction of the school
- Ensure money is well spent
- Support and challenge the school leadership team

Governors champion the work of Wadham. We offer good support and relevant training and work closely as an informed and approachable team.

Wadham Governors are dedicated to safeguarding and promoting 'life in all its fullness' for students. All Governors are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring check.

Governors' meetings are held early evenings, with a committed equivalent to 20 days in the school year.

If you feel you could contribute, or are interested to find out more, please use this link to read the full invitation and application letter: [E3016B377E1FA710B12168714F840A45.pdf \(wadhamschool.co.uk\)](https://www.wadhamschool.co.uk/E3016B377E1FA710B12168714F840A45.pdf)

You may wish to contact Laura Andrews, Clerk to the Governors, should you have further questions or would like to arrange an informal meeting to discuss this role in more detail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Self-Care Advent Calendar

Our Student Ambassadors have created a calendar of activities that may help us find time for our own well-being at such a hectic time of year!

This has been promoted through tutor-time and assemblies and we're encouraging staff and families to send in their snaps to Mrs Martin who will showcase everyone's efforts.

Self-care Advent Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Learn a new skill/hobby	2 Enjoy a festive hot drink
3 Put up some Christmas decs	4 Organise a secret santa with your friends	5 Log out of social media for the day	6 Give 5 compliments to random people	7 Talk to an older person who might be lonely	8 Wear a Christmas jumper	9 Make some homemade Christmas cards
10 Write a card for someone who is ill	11 Start a micro Christmas tree competition	12 Donate some canned goods to reverse Advent	13 Decorate a jam jar and put a tea light inside	14 Sing some Christmas carols!	15 Organise a festive sleepover	16 Have a dance party
17 Decorate some gingerbread	18 Put together a care package for someone special	19 Repurpose some recycling and make something Christmassy!	20 Create a festive playlist	21 Enjoy a movie marathon	22 Have a games night with friends or family	23 Wear your favourite Christmas PJs all day
24 Write down three things you are grateful for	25 You've arrived at the big day Have a rest	26-30 Spend some time between Christmas and New Year making a box/jar full of positive thoughts, goals and activities to share with your loved ones in January...				
31						

Do something for yourself or someone you care about every day in December and head into January feeling amazing!

Share your snaps with the Wadham community by sending them to Mrs Martin on Teams (Lucy Martin) or email...

Wellbeing Ambassadors 